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NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla Chemical Depot

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Chemical depot achieves one million hours without lost time injury

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. - Government workers at the Umatilla Chemical Depot reached a safety milestone on May 21, achieving one million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury. This is equivalent to 521 consecutive days for the workforce of 282 employees.

“This is a testament to the dedication of the workforce and our safety culture at UMCD,” said Lt. Col. Kris N. Perkins, UMCD commander. “We are only the second Chemical Material Agency depot to achieve one million hours. I am extremely proud of the workforce in achieving such an important safety milestone.”

This is the first time that the government workforce at UMCD has achieved this level of safety. Approximately 1,900 man-hours are accumulated each day by the U.S. Army employees. UMCD’s achievement, along with the recent eight million man-hours without a lost day injury by the URS systems contractor earlier this year, demonstrates Team Umatilla’s focus on safety for the workforce, community and environment.

“Umatilla Chemical Depot is equivalent to a small self-sustaining city,” said Patty O’Bleness, UMCD safety specialist. “We provide nearly all the same services as a city government, 24 hours a day. Our employees provide security for a 20,000 acre depot, maintenance, environmental safeguards, public works, electrical power, and operations for a government and contractor workforce of more than 1,200 people.”

The depot has stored conventional munitions since being built in 1941 and chemical weapons since the early 60s. The last chemical agents at the depot are expected to be destroyed in November.

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