

Depot conducts three-day exercise



Emergency response team members discuss the situation in the depot's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the opening moments of a mock accident staged during this week's Service Response Force Exercise (SRFX). The drill spanned three days and involved hundreds of people from local, state and federal agencies.

As part of a nationwide emergency response exercise taking place this month, the Umatilla Chemical Depot conducted a three-day drill to test its emergency response capabilities. The exercise began Monday morning and ended Wednesday afternoon.

The scenario consisted of two incidents — a fire and an explosion — involving VX land mines, and resulted in a mock death and several injuries. Every aspect of emergency response, including communication, response and recovery efforts, and interaction with other agencies, was tested.

The exercise not only tested the abilities of depot and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) workers, but also the ability of outside agencies to respond. The U.S. Army participated on a broad level, bringing in a Service Response Force (SRF) at the request of depot commander Lt. Col. Bob Stein — a move likely to occur in a major catastrophe like the one staged this week.

The depot and UMCDF conduct emergency exercises every quarter, and occasionally more frequent, to keep their skills sharp in the unlikely event an accident were to occur involving chemical munitions.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 670 days, or more than 3.1 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (May 1 - 7, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed this period	3,889
Total VX projectiles destroyed to date	17,937
Percentage of VX projectiles destroyed to date	49.7
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	14,727
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	460,647
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers	188,156
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,246.18
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	33.52

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **March 21, 2008:** Destroyed first VX 155mm projectile in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- **March 20, 2008:** First VX 155mm projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Jan. 23, 2008:** Completed VX rocket campaign.
- **Dec. 24, 2007:** Completed VX spray tank campaign.
- **Nov. 26, 2007:** Processed the non-stockpile VX ton container.
- **Nov. 23, 2007:** Destroyed the first VX spray tanks in the MPF.
- **Nov. 19, 2007:** First VX spray tank transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Nov. 9, 2007:** First VX chemical agent destroyed in the Liquid Incinerator (LIC).
- **Oct. 29, 2007:** Processed the first VX M55 rockets in the Deactivation Furnace System (DFS).
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** First VX M55 rockets transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.

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