

LIC 1 incident halts VX projectile processing



The primary furnace of the Liquid Incinerator (LIC) operates at 2,700° F. The UMCD/UMCDF has two LICs.

Smoke and steam filled the Liquid Incinerator (LIC) 1 primary and secondary furnace rooms at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) at about 7 a.m. Wednesday. There were no injuries, and no danger to the community or environment. Munitions disposal has been temporarily halted.

All plant protective systems worked as designed. The LIC 1 system is in a safe condition following the incident and inspections are being conducted as the system cools down.

Brine strainers had become plugged, resulting in smoke and steam due to lack of cooling. Potential damage is being evaluated and a recovery plan is being developed. The LIC must cool down from more than 2,000 degrees to less than 100 degrees prior to workers entering the furnace rooms. That may take several days.

Meanwhile, maintenance and rebricking work continues in the LIC 2, which is in the midst of a scheduled 55-day outage. Plans are to restart LIC 2 in June.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 677 days, or more than 3.1 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCD/UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (May 8 - 14, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed this period	3,161
Total VX projectiles destroyed to date	21,098
Percentage of VX projectiles destroyed to date	58.5
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	20,681
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	483,119
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers	191,317
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,255.66
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	33.78

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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