

### Disposal facility reaches 5 million safe work hours



*UMCDF workers Keith Schmaljohn (left), Clint Shoemake (center) and Earl Winebarger answer questions from local newspaper reporters during a June 9 media availability event at the depot. The event was held in conjunction with the UMCDF's safety mark of 5-million hours worked without an injury resulting in time away from work.*

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) surpassed 5 million hours without a lost-time accident on June 8. It has been 1,067 days or nearly three years since a UMCDF employee missed work because of an accident.

This is the first time UMCDF has reached 5 million safe hours, which is the equivalent of a single person working 2,500 years without a lost-time accident. UMCDF has about 830 workers.

"What's most important about that number is it means people are not getting injured at work," said Bob Dikeman, project general manager for the Washington Defense Group of URS, the company that built and operates the incineration plant. "And when our employees work safely, it means we are keeping the community and environment safe as well."

One measurement of the effectiveness of a company's safety culture is its rolling (or annual) recordable injury rate (RIR). OSHA describes a recordable injury as one that requires medical attention, ranging from stitches to broken bones and other serious injuries. UMCDF has a RIR of .34, or 0.34 recordable injuries for every 200,000 work hours.

That's a remarkable safety record, Dikeman said, especially considering the heavy industrial work that's

### UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,068 days, or more than 5 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

### Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (June 3 - 9, 2009)

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Total number of HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period   | 0        |
| Total HD ton containers destroyed to date  | 0        |
| Percentage of HD ton containers destroyed to date  | 0        |
| Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period   | 0        |
| Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date   | 0        |
| Pounds of total agent destroyed to date  | 734,262  |
| Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers | 217,969  |
| Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date   | 1,377.86 |
| Percentage of total agent tons destroyed   | 37.07    |

### UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **June 4, 2009:** First HD ton containers transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Nov. 5, 2008:** Completed VX munitions campaign.
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** Began VX munitions campaign.
- **July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.
- **Sept. 7, 2004:** Began GB munitions campaign.

done at UMCDF. Workers regularly do jobs such as crane work, welding and electrical work.

The management at UMCDF points to the project's employee-led teams, which focus on safety and environmental compliance, as the key to reaching this milestone. The project also has been designated a Volunteer Protection Program (VPP) Star site by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). VPP Star status represents the highest safety recognition issued by the federal government. It is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

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