



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Wildfires contained at Umatilla Chemical Depot

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – Several lightning-caused wildfires at the Umatilla Chemical Depot have now been contained. The first fire started at about 6:20 p.m. today. Firefighters will continue to work on hot spots overnight.

Preliminary estimates are that fires burned several thousand of the depot's 19,729 acres. The fires burned on the northern end of the depot and on adjacent property off post.

The depot's chemical weapons stockpile was not involved in the fire. Chemical weapons at the depot are stored in reinforced concrete earth-covered "igloos" designed to resist fire or other threats. All nerve agent has been destroyed; the only remaining munitions are bulk containers of mustard blister agent that do not have any explosive components.

As previously reported:

- Firefighters from the depot, Boardman, Irrigon and Hermiston Fire Departments fought the blazes per mutual aid agreements.
- One emergency response worker suffered a knee injury while exiting a vehicle and was taken to the depot clinic. The worker later went home.
- Depot workers moved vehicles and other equipment out of the path of the fire.
- Depot officials notified off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore.; Benton County, Wash.; those in Oregon and Washington states; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

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