

Anniversary of VX campaign start



Two disposal plant workers prepare to place the first VX rocket on the processing line, Oct. 29, 2007.

Two years ago today the first VX rocket was destroyed in the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF), marking the start of the second agent campaign for munitions stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

The campaign, which ended on Nov. 5, 2008, was a significant accomplishment for Team Umatilla by destroying the last of the nerve agent in Oregon. All told, 62,426 VX munitions and 364 agent tons were safely destroyed.

MPF quench system tests OK

Non-hazardous waste testing on the UMCDF's Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) Discharge Airlock (DAL) water quench system was completed over the weekend with "excellent results," according to Plant Manager Tim Morton. Nine sand-filled "surrogate" ton containers (TCs) were tested to ensure they could be discharged without any smoke or visible emissions, while not adversely affecting operations.

"We learned that having the automatic spray cool the ton container to about 600 degrees provided enough water to quench the ton container," Morton said. "Then our air supply would complete the cooling to less than 300 degrees."

With the new system in place, TCs can now be discharged in about 90 minutes, a vast improvement from the 143 minutes previously needed when cooling down to less than 700 degrees without water quenching.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,209 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 (Oct. 22 - 28, 2009)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	8
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	159
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	6.0
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	2
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	54
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	22,397
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	278,744
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	3,044,926
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,136
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,517.23
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	40.81

*Recipient ton containers are byproducts of mustard disposal and were not a part of the original stockpile.

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- **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.

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