



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 12, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.

Public Affairs Office
Jim Hackett
PHONE: (541) 564-5418/5312

Depot detects trace of mustard chemical agent vapor

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. - A depot chemical operations monitoring system detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor last night inside a depot storage structure containing ton containers.

The agent detection was confirmed by depot monitoring officials this morning.

The trace of mustard chemical agent detection is unrelated to the false emergency alert system alarm that occurred yesterday noon.

The storage structure, commonly called an igloo, has a "passive" filtration system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structure. However, as a further protective measure, a powered filtration system was installed. A team of specially-trained workers will enter the igloo to isolate the suspect ton container and determine future actions.

Even though the readings are so low they are not harmful to the public or the environment, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. They also notify 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 Department of Environmental Quality.

#

www.cma.army.mil