



Depot to honor those who died in 1944 explosion

Umatilla Chemical Depot will honor the six workers who died in a 1944 igloo explosion on Monday, March 21, the 67th anniversary of the event.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in Bldg. 54 and end at the site of the explosion. Family members of those who died and the public are invited.

The 1944 accident was the only fatal munitions handling accident in the depot's 70-year history. The depot received its first conventional munitions in October, 1941 on the eve of World War II, and stored conventional ammunition throughout World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf War. The depot began its current mission of chemical weapons storage in the early 1960s and continues that tradition today.

"It is an honor to be part of an organization that has played such an historic role in our nation's history," said Lt. Col. Kris N. Perkins, depot commander. "That is why I believe it is so important that we honor these six depot workers who gave their lives in service to this country."

In the 1944 accident, a depot storage igloo, B-1014, containing 264 500-pound conventional bombs, was completely destroyed. An extensive Army investigation was unable to determine the specific cause of the accident.

Interested World War II-era depot workers or their family members should provide their names as soon as possible to Laura Harriman, depot protocol officer at (541) 564-5360. This information will be used to permit access to the depot.

Bus transportation will be provided from the Bldg. 54 ceremony to the accident site. Ceremony guests should bring warm clothing.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,692 days, or more than 8 million work hours, since a lost work day accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(Feb. 17 - 23, 2011)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	1
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	1,376
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	52.2
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	5
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	490
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	737
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	2,439,971
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	5,820,627
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	219,345
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	2,597.85
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	69.88

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

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **June 27, 2010:** Completed mustard Agent Trial Burn for Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and Liquid Incinerators (LICs).
- **June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the 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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Outreach Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday - Friday
(Additional hours available upon request)

Disposal facility hits new safety mark

On Saturday, Feb. 19, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) surpassed 8 million work hours without a lost work day accident. Eight million safe hours is the equivalent of a single person working about 19,230 years without missing a day of work due to injury. UMCDF has about 830 workers. This is the first time UMCDF has reached 8 million hours.