INTERIM HOLDING FACILITY (IHF)

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate's (CMA RCMD) proven transportable assessment and treatment technologies quickly respond to planned and unplanned chemical warfare materiel (CWM) recoveries. These recoveries most often occur during range-clearing operations and at relic CWM burial sites. These items require safe and secure storage until they can be destroyed. Interim holding facilities provide safe, temporary storage for recovered chemical warfare materiel at sites where permanent storage facilities, such as igloos and bunkers, are unavailable.

Engineers developed stringent construction and safety requirements for the IHF. Automatic fire suppression system and ports to conduct agent monitoring comply with federal law regulating hazardous waste management. The facilities consist of fireproof and corrosion-resistant materials. Light switches and fixtures, outlets and air conditioners must meet strict nonexplosive design requirements to reduce the risk of fire inside the IHF. Additionally, the IHF includes a secondary containment area below the floor that would contain liquids should a leak occur.

The interim holding facility provides safe storage for recovered chemical warfare materiel.

The IHF includes high security locks and remains enclosed in a fenced area. Lights attached to the IHF maximize lighting at night. Additionally, agent monitoring of the IHF is conducted until the recovered items are removed for treatment.

The IHF is equipped with an automatic fire suppression system in compliance with federal hazardous waste management regulations.

The IHF design includes a secondary containment area below the floor that would contain liquids in the event of a leak.

Light fixtures, switches, outlets and air conditioning units must meet strict non-explosive design requirements to reduce the risk of fire in the IHF.

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