

BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL ACTIVITY

Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) is a subordinate unit of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. BGCA supported delivery of chemical munitions to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) for elimination while safely securing, storing and monitoring the chemical stockpile to protect the workforce, the public and the environment. Stockpile destruction operations were completed on July 7, 2023. BGCA will continue to provide support during BGCAPP closure, including chemical agent-contaminated rocket motor and drained warhead destruction.

The stockpile at Blue Grass was contained on 250 acres on the Blue Grass Army Depot, located in the rolling hills of central Kentucky. Blue Grass Chemical Activity is a tenant activity on the 15,000-acre Depot. The chemical weapons at the depot were received as far back as 1944. The majority of the nerve agent weapons arrived in the mid-60s. All weapons were stored securely in earth-covered bunkers called igloos. Designed specifically to protect their contents from external factors such as storms, lightning and other weather-related events, the igloos are equipped with a rear vent and a dual lightning protection system. In addition to a 24/7 guard force, there are a number of other physical and electronic safeguards that protected the stockpile.

CMA worked in close partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and with state and local governments to implement the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) to educate, prepare, and protect the Depot and the surrounding community. CSEPP training has given local emergency responders the enhanced skills, equipment and knowledge to respond to future emergencies, such as transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, floods and fires. CSEPP will continue to support the community until the BGCAPP site closure process is complete and all recoverable chemical agent has been destroyed. Site closure is expected to take several years.



REV: 071023

