

Pueblo Chemical Depot safely completes decades-long chemical stockpile storage mission

Our Mission

Safely secure, store, and monitor the chemical stockpile while protecting the workforce, the public, and the environment; prepare for and support stockpile elimination; and transition the depot and the workforce for closure.

Safe and Secure Storage

Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) originally housed 2,611 tons (2,369 metric tons) of mustard agent in more than 780,000 munitions, which comprised about eight percent of the nation's original chemical weapons stockpile. The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) oversaw the secure storage at PCD, ensuring the chemical agents and munitions were safely protected and monitored.

PCD is home to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, operated under the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives. PCD personnel transferred munitions from storage to PCAPP for destruction, a mission that was completed June 22, 2023. This partnership supported safe and efficient destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile while protecting the community, workforce and environment.

To accomplish this safe storage, chemical agents and munitions were housed in designated storage areas and specially designed earth-covered magazines, commonly referred to as storage igloos or bunkers, on highly secure military installations under strict adherence to all Department of Defense and Army safety and security regulations. The igloos at PCD were specially constructed with many security and safety measures and processes designed for the storage of chemical agents, ammunition and explosives. The igloos, made of steel-reinforced concrete, helped keep chemical agents and munitions secure and protected from natural forces and man-made threats.



Routine and random around-the-clock patrols verified the security of chemical agent storage areas. Crews conducted regular visual inspections of the munitions, as well as of the physical condition of the igloos, to ensure that safe storage practices were maintained.

Commitment to Safety

CMA remains fully committed to the safety of the public, the workforce and the environment through final closure at PCD. Initial training of the workforce and certification in the Army's Personnel Reliability Program, followed by regular retraining and recertification, helped ensure that chemical agent and munitions stockpiles remained securely stored as operations transitioned to the destruction facility.

Closure operations at PCD are expected to continue for several years.

For more information, visit the Pueblo Chemical Depot Facebook page or <https://www.cma.army.mil/PCD>

Igloo Specifications

- 12.5 feet high, 26 feet wide and 40, 60 or 80 feet long
- Largest igloos have 2,000 square feet of floor space
- Wall thickness from 1 foot at floor to 6 inches at top
- 6-inch slab floor
- Headwall is 10-inch steel-reinforced concrete
- Protected by waterproof membrane
- Temperature 40-70 degrees year round
- Lightning protection system

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