

Morrow County and Port of Morrow officials tour depot

Officials from Morrow County and the Port of Morrow toured the Umatilla Chemical Depot on July 29 to better understand existing facilities and infrastructure as they plan for eventual depot closure. The tour focused on the Morrow County or western portion of the depot. Several of the visiting officials also serve on the Umatilla Chemical Depot Redevelopment Authority (UMCDRA), formerly known as the "LRA." The tour was led by UMCD BRAC Coordinator Phil Ferguson.



UMCD BRAC Coordinator Phil Ferguson, right, shows a depot storage igloo to visiting officials from Morrow County and the Port of Morrow. US Army photo.

Fire scorches depot land



Umatilla Chemical Depot Fire Chief Tyler Wilson said about 150 acres burned in a fire Monday in the southwest corner of the depot near I-84. The fire was mostly under control by 6 p.m. Monday, but depot firefighters responded to hot spots during the night and early Tuesday morning.

About 15 firefighters from the depot, Boardman and Hermiston fire departments responded to the blaze shortly after 1 p.m. Monday afternoon. The depot has a mutual assistance agreement with the adjacent fire departments. Also responding were two officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, employees with the depot Public Works and Chemical Operations directorates provided support.

Investigators suspect the fire was caused by birds short-circuiting a power line.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,118 days, or more than 5 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCD (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (July 23 - 29, 2009)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	14
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	51
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	1.9
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	9
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	37
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	11,218
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	56,633
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	2,817,753
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,028
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,416.77
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	38.11

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

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the Metal Parts Furnace (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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