

Depot's burrowing owl population flourishing



This young burrowing owl apparently doesn't like having his picture taken...or is that a smile?

A couple years ago, the Umatilla Chemical Depot began a program to assist the burrowing owl population that exists here. The owl, a member of the endangered species list, has responded to the depot's help by increasing its local population. In fact, they've multiplied to the point where depot motorists must keep a watchful eye out for flightless young chicks attempting to cross roads. But, burrowing owls aren't the only wildlife that drivers must be aware of. The depot is also home to pronghorn, coyotes, badgers, snakes, several types of birds and an occasional cougar.

UMCDF finishes May safely and compliantly

The month of May entered the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's history books quietly on Monday. The month was one of the safest and most compliant on record.

Only one first aid injury was reported, and there were no recordable or lost workday injuries. May also marked the second straight month without a recordable, the first since October-November 2009.

Regarding environmental compliance, no Environmental Matters (EMATs) opened during the month were considered noncompliances. It was the first time since last May that no noncompliances were issued.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,426 days, or more than 6.5 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (May 27 - June 2, 2010)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	9
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	301
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	11.4
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	14
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	171
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	34,796
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	522,238
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	3,775,592
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,284
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,638.98
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	44.09

**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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