



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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A thirst for stewardship

DCD's new "guzzlers" will utilize once wasted water

Deseret Chemical Depot is quenching its thirst for environmental stewardship with the recent installation of two "guzzlers." The guzzlers are essentially large troughs, designed to capture and store water—1,800 gallons to be exact. The guzzlers have been installed on the southern half of DCD; one just off Reynolds Road, the other is located near the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS).

"Before these guzzlers were installed, there were only water sources on the northern half of the depot, Ophir Creek and Rainbow Reservoir," explained DCD Environmental Manager Troy Johnson. "Now, because of the recent installation of the guzzlers, there are two water sources on the southern half of the property."

Both of the guzzlers were strategically placed close to fire hydrants so that when the hydrants are tested or their lines are flushed, the discharged water can go, by fire hose, to the guzzlers.

"Before, the water just spilled out onto the ground," said Boyd White, DCD environmental scientist. "Now we can utilize the water in a much better way."

(See GUZZLERS on page 3)



The guzzlers are designed to capture and store rainwater; they will also be filled from nearby fire hydrants when the hydrants are tested or their lines are flushed. A black netting over the open corner of the guzzler prevents wildlife from becoming trapped.

Safety prevails at DCD

Depot has lowest recordable injury rate throughout CMA depots and arsenals

The Deseret Chemical Depot government workforce has taken great strides to improve their safety record and to revitalize their safety program. Currently, DCD workers have brought their 12-month Recordable Injury Rate (RIR) down to 1.12 from a peak of 3.3 in August 2009. The current 1.12 RIR represents the lowest amongst the CMA chemical depots and arsenals.

"About two years ago, we were seeing a steady increase in the RIR, which we believe was due to a deficiency in the safety oversight and resources, which is when we realized that the safety program needed to be revived and we really needed to get the employees more involved," explained Tom Salzman, DCD Installation Safety Officer. "We have always focused on and maintained (See DCD SAFETY on page 2)

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8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(Additional hours available upon request)



Piles of railroad ties lie along the old route of the depot's train tracks. The depot is in the process of recycling all of the railroad track on DCD property. Out of 40 original miles, less than 11 miles of track remain.



DCD employees gathered for a recent Safety Stand-Down on Oct. 5, 2010. The regularly scheduled stand-downs are part of the depot's strong safety culture.



Since June, when the Process Containment Base (the enclosure's concrete foundation) was poured, construction of the Area Ten Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) and its various support facilities has made significant progress. Several key components are already in place, including the furnace, the Electrical Equipment Enclosure, the Environmental Control System, the collection and storage tanks, and the glove boxes, which will be used to drain and decontaminate the ton containers. The ATLIC is located within DCD's storage yard and will be used to destroy DCD's small stockpile of GA nerve and Lewisite blister agents.



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DCD safety

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an excellent chemical safety record; the incidents we were seeing were industrial related, so we began a new emphasis on industrial safety," Salzman said.

The DCD safety office attributes a great deal of the safety improvement to raising the general safety awareness of the workforce and getting them involved in reporting safety issues. "By empowering the employees and providing them with the necessary tools, they have stepped up and provided the feedback needed to get our safety program re-energized and back on track," Salzman said. According to Salzman, the top three tools that have been implemented include an employee reporting program, a traveling safety award and weekly safety messages to the workforce. The Empowering People to Improve Safety and Near Miss Reporting program actively seeks and rewards employees for their ideas and observations for unsafe conditions. The reported unsafe conditions are fixed, potentially preventing an accident. The traveling safety award is presented at each month's town hall meeting and recognizes and provides incentives to employees to be accident-free. In addition, weekly safety messages coinciding with the safety office trending and analysis has provided an opportunity to heighten the awareness of the workforce regarding various safety topics ranging from stress management to fire prevention—tips they can use on the job or at home.

"This specific safety record represents only the DCD government workforce, which is a significant improvement for us compared to where we were at 18 months ago. But when you look at the combined safety record of the depot [including TOCDF], our overall safety record is incredible and something the entire workforce should be proud of," said Col. Mark B. Pomeroy, DCD Commander.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Oct. 17)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	5,463
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total number of mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	63,274
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	86.86%

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 9, 1:30 p.m.** - DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental cleanup activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **Nov. 18, 1:30 p.m.** - Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 1015 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 195 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.

Planning for closure

Community stakeholders discuss, evaluate needs

Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) isn't alone when it comes to planning for mission completion—many community stakeholders are also preparing for possible economic impacts.

In November 2005, DCD was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list. Communities impacted by a BRAC can receive assistance from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA). OEA works with local, state, and federal agency representatives, through an assigned project manager, to evaluate community needs resulting from BRAC and the consequent reduction of government and contractor workforces.

Rick Solander, OEA project manager, met with community stakeholders in September to discuss local needs and the types of OEA grant assistance available. While OEA cannot provide grants in support of workforce training and education, it can offer financial assistance for activities such as surveys, planning and evaluation efforts.

Tooele County Economic Development Director Nicole Cline was selected by the group to take the lead in drafting the initial grant application. While Cline will take the lead, Solander will work directly with Cline and others to determine eligibility for assistance and support with the application process.

"It is unique to have an agency say, 'We are here to help and we have funding,'" Cline stated in response to the meeting. Cline continued to explain that ultimately, she would like have jobs available to make it possible for those DCD employees who want to stay in Tooele County to do so.



DCD employee Shane Russell helps spread seed around the Johnson ponds. New vegetation will help make the area a viable wildlife hub. The two ponds were original to the Johnson homestead and were recently revitalized to help irrigate nearby pasture land and to provide a watering hole for animals living on DCD.

CMA reaches 80 percent chemical weapons destruction mark

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced that on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010, it achieved the destruction of 80 percent of the U.S. chemical agent stockpile since Entry-Into-Force, when the United States ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty in April 1997.

CMA Director Conrad Whyne said, "This is another positive step in meeting the treaty and our commitment to the American people to safely dispose of the stockpile of chemical weapons. It is the direct result of the dedicated efforts of the government and contractor personnel at CMA who day-by-day safely store and destroy the stockpile."

Eighty percent represents the destruction of 24,488 tons of agent and more than 2.1 million munitions. CMA reached the 50 percent milestone in December 2007, the 60 percent destruction mark in April 2009 and 75 percent destruction in July 2010.

While not a treaty-mandated achievement, 80 percent demonstrates the United States' continuing progress in fulfilling its international obligations to destroy its chemical weapons stockpile. CMA is on pace to meet the 90 percent milestone by April 2012. The U.S. Army Element Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program is responsible for destroying the remaining 10 percent.

Guzzlers

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The guzzlers will save water, benefit wildlife and will play a key role if the depot's plans to lease the land for cattle grazing come to fruition.

"Our plans are to add additional guzzlers over the next few years," said Johnson. "They'll not only help conserve water, which is a limited resource here in the Utah desert, but they are part of DCD's long-term environmental goals."



Pre-demolition work is underway in the Multi-Purpose Demilitarization Facility (MDF)/Bulk Items Facility (BIF) at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). In this photo, Nate Firestone (left) and Josh Overpeck (right) attempt to flush out fresh decon lines in the MDF/BIF unpack area.

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