



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | Nov. 18, 2010

DCD reseeds burned acreage

If there is a silver lining to a wildfire, Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) has found it.

DCD recently reseeded the nearly 300 acres that were scorched by a wildfire in July. More importantly, it was done using a special mix of six different seeds.

"The goal is to establish more native grasses instead of the cheatgrass that was here and is widespread on the depot," said Boyd White, DCD environmental scientist.



A range drill is used to reseed the nearly 300 acres on DCD that were burned by a wildfire in July. The fire was started by a maintenance vehicle's catalytic converter and burned approximately 800 acres total. DCD environmental took advantage of the unlucky situation by choosing to reseed with native grasses.

Cheatgrass is native to Europe and parts of Africa and Asia. It was introduced into the United States in the mid-1800s. The problem with cheatgrass, White said, is that it invades open areas such as rangelands and pastures and it has the potential to completely replace native vegetation. It also can adversely change fire regimes, possibly increasing fire frequency to the point that native shrubs such as sagebrush cannot recover, which is bad for the animals that use the habitat for forage and cover.

"Choosing a better seed mix is just one example of how we can do things better environmentally," said Troy Johnson, DCD environmental manager. "It doesn't take any more effort, but it will provide a much more valuable result."

Surety inspection reflects strong performance

Following completion of Deseret Chemical Depot's last scheduled Chemical Surety Inspection (CSI), initial reports indicate that both DCD and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility passed the inspection with excellent performance.

Inspectors with the Department of the Army Inspector General spent two weeks this month on site, inspecting various areas from surety management and chemical mission operations to safety and security.

"It is the teamwork of the entire depot work force, government and contractors alike that made this possible. I commend the work force for such a strong performance," said Col. Mark Pomeroy, DCD Commander.

Explosive chamber en route to Utah

Early this month, the Detonation of Ammunition in Vacuum Integrated Chamber (DAVINCH) system successfully made its trek from Japan to the United States. The DAVINCH is currently in transit from California and is scheduled to arrive in Utah by December.

The DAVINCH, a type of Explosive Destruction Technology, will be used to destroy more than 300 problematic mustard agent-filled munitions, in addition to approximately 50 mustard samples. The munitions slated for disposal in the DAVINCH consist of 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortars that are badly deteriorated or have leaked in the past and are now safely stored in overpack containers. This system was chosen because these munitions cannot be processed using the existing demilitarization process at the TOCDF without increased risks to the workers. The DAVINCH will use donor and linear-shaped charges to detonate and destroy the munitions. (See CHAMBER on page 2)

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Monday - Friday
(Additional hours available upon request)

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Nov. 14)

Total mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	5,522
Total mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	63,274
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	87.68%



Deseret Chemical Depot Commander Col. Mark Pomeroy addressed a crowd of more than 140 community members at Tooele's 2010 Veterans' Day event. Pomeroy recognized the many veterans who have served our country and as part of his closing remarks, he asked the audience, "Do you know if there is a hero amongst you?"

Construction nearing completion

A great deal of progress has been made at the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) site and workers expect to complete construction work in January. Most of the major elements are in place including the LIC, heating and cooling system, Electrical Equipment Enclosure, control center and glove boxes, which will be used to drain and decontaminate the ton containers.

Installation of remaining process equipment is ongoing, including the Pollution Abatement System equipment, which will ensure that the furnace exhaust is environmentally safe, meeting strict regulations before release into the environment.

Following construction, workers will begin testing the individual pieces of the system to verify that they can be operated from the control center. This will include turning motors on and off, filling and emptying the holding tanks, pressure valve checks and ensuring adequate air flow through the HVAC system. Once this is complete, the system's parts will be integrated together and fine tuned in preparation for final operational reviews and inspections.

Outside of construction, the environmental department has been busy with permitting requirements. While the first public comment period has concluded, a second 45-day public comment period is expected to start in mid-January 2011. Both must be held before the permit request can be considered for final approval.

The ATLIC is located within DCD's storage area and will be used to destroy DCD's small stockpile of GA nerve and lewisite blister agents.

'Tis the season for giving

The holidays are just around the corner and with many families still coping with the struggles of today's tough economy, it can be a stressful time of year. Employees from all areas of the depot—DCD, TOCDF and CAMDS—are coming together to give back to those in need.

DCD has kick-started the holiday season with a food drive competition that is in full swing. Each department is competing and the winners will get a full meal, paid by and personally served by DCD management. Along with the food drive, DCD is also following its annual tradition of collecting toys for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

TOCDF and CAMDS field office employees have set a goal of collecting 111 toys and 1,111 pounds of food to help those in need. Upon reaching their goals, management will don their best Elvis attire and provide a live performance as part of the entertainment at the annual holiday gathering.

But that's not all. The TOCDF Safety Action Team has launched Christmas in Candy Land, a new competitive employee holiday program to assist people in need. From collecting food and toys to donating supplies for soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, TOCDF employees are stepping up to the plate to help those near and far.

Chamber

continued from front page

The DAVINCH system recently completed explosive testing in Japan and was shipped to the United States. The off-gas treatment system—which will clean, cool and neutralize the acidic gases—is currently being fabricated in Utah and is expected to be complete by December.

The DCD storage yard, known as Area 10, is where the DAVINCH will be constructed and housed within its own environmental enclosure. Site preparation work is currently underway, with installation activities scheduled to begin mid-December and operations expected to start mid-2011.

The environmental permitting requirements are also moving along. The environmental department has responded to the first round of comments received from the Utah Department of Solid and Hazardous Waste. Following resolution of these comments, a second 45-day public comment period is anticipated to begin in December.

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 30, 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.
- **Dec. 9, 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.

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on Nov. 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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