

Disposal plant worker safely reaches milestone for entries



Mike Morehead, UMCDF maintenance worker, receives a congratulatory note inside his DPE suit as he prepares for his 200th entry.

On Friday, Sept. 3, a Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) maintenance worker donned a Demilitarization Protective Ensemble (DPE) suit and entered a toxic area of the plant to continue removal of obsolete machinery. But for entrant Mike Morehead, the entry was more than just another routine task accomplished in the course of a day.

The entry marked the 200th for Morehead, the first UMCDF worker to reach that number. What's more remarkable is that he has never had a "hot cutout," meaning he's never come out of an entry with agent monitor readings above zero. He attributes this to impeccable decontamination practices. He has never been injured or become ill during an entry.

"I worked for 35 years in a highly hazardous job before coming to Umatilla," he said, "so I've learned how to work very safely."

Morehead will soon have company in the "200 club." A handful of other workers are within 20 or so entries of reaching that milestone.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,524 days, or more than 7.1 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (Sept. 2 - 8, 2010)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	47
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	752
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	28.5
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	3
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	224
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	89,799
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	1,308,787
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	4,592,531
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,637
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	2,032.25
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	54.67

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

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- June 27, 2010:** Completed mustard Agent Trial Burn for Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and Liquid Incinerators (LICs).
- June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the 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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