



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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No more DPE entries at CAMDS

URS employees at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) have performed what is believed to be the final Demilitarization Protective Ensemble (DPE) entry at the facility. On Feb. 24, Mechanical Technicians Dustin Kinney and Randy Nielson entered into the CAMDS Bulk Item Facility to complete point-source air monitoring underneath the base plate of the Bulk Drain Station, equipment that was previously used to punch and drain ton containers. Kinney and Nielson (along with two other entrants from the previous DPE entry) had to jack hammer through nearly two inches of epoxy grout in order to knock the base plate loose, allowing them to tip the base plate up enough to execute the air monitoring tests.

"The air monitoring results immediately came up clean, after they [Kinney and Nielson] completed the two required cycles of air monitoring," said CAMDS Operations Manager Cliff Shaw, "which ensures that agent contamination levels are low enough for the workers to perform the remaining closure work at CAMDS in a lower level of protective equipment."

The DPE suit was developed to provide personnel working in chemical agent environments with the best protective equipment possible. Now that CAMDS is in the closure phase and no chemical agent operations have taken place since 2003, workers have been able to decontaminate most of the chemical agent contamination. "It is less strenuous for the employees to work in a lower level of protective equipment because the physical and heat (See LAST DPE ENTRY page 3)



During what is expected to have been the last DPE entry at the CAMDS facility, URS CAMDS mechanical technician Randy Nielson pushes on the base plate of the Bulk Drain Station (BDS) in an effort to knock it loose, while mechanical technician Dustin Kinney watches closely for any movement. After Neilson and Kinney were able to tip the BDS base up far enough, they were able to conduct the point-source air monitoring underneath the base plate.

DCD reaches safety record

One million safe man-hours

Government workers at the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) have reached and surpassed one million safe man-hours. This achievement is a first for the government workforce at DCD and, according to the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Risk Management Office, is also the highest string of safe man-hours among CMA's remaining chemical weapons storage sites. The current string of safe hours began in September of 2009.

"This is a reflection of our worker's commitment to maintaining a safe work environment," said Col. Mark Pomeroy, DCD Com- (See DCD SAFETY RECORD page 2)

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(Additional hours available upon request)



TOCDF SPM Ted Ryba (with arm raised) takes visiting members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council on a tour of the TOCDF on March 2. The purpose of the visit was to address concerns about the United States' ability to fulfill its chemical weapons destruction obligations by the international treaty deadline, April 29, 2012. Visiting members, which included several international ambassadors and key U.S. Army personnel, also toured DCD's Area 10 where two destruction operations—the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator and the DAVINCH detonation chamber—are being readied for operation. The group visited the Pueblo Chemical Activity Pilot Plant in Colorado prior to arriving in Utah.



Components of the Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber, or DAVINCH, arrive at DCD as installation activities get well underway. (clockwise) The inner (back) and outer chambers of the DAVINCH were shipped separately on flatbed trailers and await final delivery to the DCD storage area where the DAVINCH operations will take place. The off-gas treatment system—which will cool, clean and neutralize the acidic gases—was shipped in sections; a window provides a clear view of what's under the protective covers. The DAVINCH is being installed to safely allow the explosive destruction of more than 300 problematic mustard agent-filled munitions and approximately 50 mustard samples. URS Photos

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DCD Safety Record

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mander. "When our employees work safely, it means that we are keeping the community and environment safe as well," he added.

The DCD safety office utilizes a number of tools to engage the workforce and continue building a strong safety culture. A traveling safety award is used to recognize employees and provides a competitive incentive to maintain a safe workplace. Through the Empowering People to Improve Safety (EPIS) and Near Miss reporting programs, the safety office actively seeks and rewards workers for their suggestions and observations of possible safety issues. In addition, weekly safety messages raise workforce awareness of various safety topics—information they can use on the job or at home.

"I'd like to recognize the Safety Office for their oversight role in the implementation of several safety programs and to the employees of Deseret Chemical Depot for their collaborative efforts in using and promoting the EPIS and Near Miss programs in achieving this milestone," said Tom Salzman, DCD Installation Safety Officer.

Another strong aspect of DCD's safety culture is their rolling recordable injury rate (RIR), which is calculated as a 12-month average. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) describes a recordable injury as one that requires medical attention, ranging from stitches to broken bones and other serious injuries. DCD currently holds an RIR of 0.9. According to OSHA, that's comparable to working in the finance and insurance industries.

"Considering the challenging hazards associated with the chemical weapons and the heavy industrial-type work that is performed by depot workers, this is a remarkable achievement," Col. Pomeroy noted.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of March. 13)

Total mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	6,086
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	95.47%

For the birds

New nesting platforms aim to lure raptors

Deseret Chemical Depot is hoping that if they build them, the birds will come. Over the next few weeks, the depot's environmental staff plans to erect approximately 21 nesting platforms in an effort to entice birds of prey to nest away from buildings and other army assets such as power poles which can be dangerous for the birds.

"We want the birds to nest here in a safe, undisturbed environment—and that can ultimately lead to higher survival rates," said Boyd White, DCD environmental scientist.

The poles are recycled power poles and reach at least 15 feet high (that height is ideal for ferruginous hawks; eagles prefer to be higher up). The nesting platforms are made from wood pallets and range in size from two to five feet square—the larger ones for (See NESTING PLATFORMS page 3)

Rescued eagle moves to Colorado zoo

Chemical weapons aren't the only thing Tooele shares with Pueblo, Colo.—Freedom, an injured bald eagle who was rescued at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) nearly two years ago, has recently been relocated to the Pueblo Zoo.

In early 2009, a depot worker discovered Freedom on the side of the road, hurt and starving. The eagle was transported to the Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, where her fractured wing was partially amputated after her body rejected the pin that was used to repair the injury.

During her time at the rescue center, Freedom was trained as an educational bird—a grounded bird that could be taken to schools and other public events, promoting wildlife protection and conservation. Unfortunately, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided that because the rescue center was not open to the public, the eagle would have to be relocated.

Freedom made the trek to Pueblo along with another bald eagle named Parker, who was also treated at the rescue center. Parker was injured near Willard Bay in Box Elder County and he, too, had his wing partially amputated. Although neither can fly, together they will be the stars of the zoo's new bald eagle exhibit.



Nearly two years ago, Freedom (right) was found injured on the side of a road at Deseret Chemical Depot. While being rehabilitated at the Great Basin Wildlife Rescue, she was joined by another injured eagle named Parker (left). Both eagles suffered wing injuries requiring partial amputations. Unable to fly, Parker and Freedom have moved to their new home at the Pueblo Zoo in Colorado.

Last DPE entry

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stresses are reduced," explains CMA Engineering Technician Larry Nielson. "When the workers do not have to lug around 30-plus pounds of gear on their backs, they can save their energy for the actual work," Nielson said.

It has been more than 30 years since the DPE suit was initially used to make the first toxic entry at the CAMDS facility in September 1979. The suit originated at the U.S. Army Edgewood Research, Development and Engineering Center in Maryland, but for the past three decades, CAMDS has been responsible for the ongoing tests and the improvements made to the suit over the years.

"Since the first generation of the DPE suit, CAMDS has successfully evolved the suit with a number of changes, from major redesigns in order to increase the material thickness to more simple modifications like enhancing the wearers field of vision," Nielson added, "but the end goal of each upgrade has always been the same—to improve overall quality, comfort and performance of the suit."

Nesting platforms

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eagles, which are prone to build larger nests.

But that's not all. These turnkey nesting platforms will be fully furnished with dry twigs and branches to encourage raptors to build a nest.

"Hopefully if we put all the resources in place for the birds, they will stay," said White.

The area's birds of prey include hawks, falcons, eagles, vultures and owls.



Rowland Howard from the Tooele Army Depot helps install a new nesting platform at Deseret Chemical Depot. Twenty-one manmade nests are being installed on DCD in an effort to keep large birds of prey away from DCD property such as buildings and power poles.

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