



Chemical Materials Agency Deseret Chemical Depot

Public Affairs Office

News Release

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THREE MILLION SAFE MAN-HOURS AT TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, Utah – The 850 contractor workers at the Army's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) yesterday celebrated a significant and unprecedented TOCDF safety milestone, surpassing the three million mark for consecutive man-hours worked without a lost workday accident.

"This is an outstanding achievement that underscores the continuing growth in the strength of our project safety culture," said Steve Frankiewicz, general manager of the TOCDF systems contractor, EG&G Defense Materials, Inc. "I'm proud of our team, and every one of our team members should be proud to reach and surpass this milestone," Frankiewicz added.

The three million man-hours string equates to 671 consecutive days with no lost workday accidents, dating back to July 16, 2002.

Dale Ormond, TOCDF Project Manager for the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), said, "EG&G's commitment to ensure the safety of each and every individual working at TOCDF is represented in this accomplishment, and they are to be commended for their performance."

The current string of safe man-hours is the TOCDF's longest, with each new day of safe operations extending the project record. Since March 1992 (during the plant's construction phase), there have been seven safe hours strings of one million or more, with three strings of more than two million hours.

The TOCDF currently is processing the remaining Deseret Chemical Depot stockpile of aging, deteriorating VX nerve agent-filled munitions, having previously eliminated the local stockpile of GB (Sarin)-filled weapons. Completion of the VX Agent Destruction Campaign is scheduled to occur in early 2005, followed by a plant reconfiguration to process the remaining stockpiled munitions, those containing Mustard blister agents.

As of today, more than 48 percent of the DCD agent stockpile has been safely destroyed, and nearly 84 percent of individual stockpiled munitions.