



# NEWS RELEASE



## Anniston Chemical Activity

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### WORKERS QUICKLY, CORRECTLY REACT WHEN ELECTRICAL PANEL FLARES

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala. – Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) employees quickly doused a short-lived electrical panel fire early this morning.

While ANCDF demilitarization operations have been temporarily suspended pending a safety check, no one was injured, property damage was minimal, and there was no threat to the community or the environment.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) officials, State and local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) officials, and Army officials were all notified of the incident.

“A small electrical component apparently overheated and started a small fire. ANCDF workers acted quickly and correctly using a hand-held fire extinguisher,” said Timothy K. Garrett, the government site project manager.

“It appears,” Garrett continued, “this is nothing more than a piece of man-made equipment - in this case a small electrical component - broke.”

VX rocket demilitarization operations were not ongoing at the time of the incident. Garrett expects normal ANCDF disposal operations to resume soon.

Since August 2003, more than 25 percent of the chemical munitions stored here and 25 percent of the agent has been safely destroyed at the ANCDF. The totals include all of Anniston’s GB-filled munitions (142,428) and GB agent (96,246 gallons). Workers are now demilitarizing VX-filled rockets. So far, they have safely destroyed 26,491 of the rockets and approximately 30,140 gallons of VX.

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