



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

MEDIA RELEASE

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2005

For More Information Contact:

Raini K. Wright
Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility
Public Affairs
Office: (870) 540-2047
Mobile: (870) 329-9656

ALARM SOUNDED AT PBCDF

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, Ark. - A fire panel alarmed in the control room at 1:38 pm yesterday at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

Control room operators followed the proper procedures and later confirmed that there was no fire. A malfunction at a fire alarm pull station was the cause for the alarm. The alarm caused fire dampers to close in accordance with facility design. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) reacted as designed to the closing of the fire dampers. A primary function of the HVAC system is to contain agent vapors within designated areas of the facility.

“Samples taken from agent monitors have determined that there was an extremely low level of chemical agent vapor migration inside a portion of the disposal facility,” said Mark Greer, acting site project manager for PBCDF. “The levels detected were well below the threshold values that have been established for worker protection, and there were no personnel in the monitored area.”

At no time was there any danger to the employees, the community or the environment.

As of midnight yesterday, PBCDF has safely disposed of 19,580 rockets drained of the nerve agent GB and 180,387 pounds of the agent GB. The GB M55 rockets will be the first chemical weapons disposal campaign, followed by the VX rockets, the VX landmines, and finally the HD/HT bulk containers. GB and VX are nerve agents. HD and HT are mustard blister agents.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.

Release Number: 012-2005

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