

Release date: September 20, 1996

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DOE

DOE TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING EXERCISE

As a part of Vice President Gore's Reinventing Government Initiative, the U.S. Department of Energy, Hazardous Materials Management Emergency Response (HAMMER) training organization is facilitating a major emergency preparedness training exercise on Saturday. "Vice President Gore's initiative calls for greater teamwork among federal and state agencies with similar missions in order to reduce costs, increase efficiency, and eliminate unnecessary duplication," said June Ollero DOE's HAMMER Program Director.

The exercise will begin at 8:30 a.m. and terminate at 2:30 p.m. DOE's Hazardous Materials Management Emergency Response (HAMMER) and Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) teams will work with other participating organizations to improve their ability to respond to an accident involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

The other exercise participants include: the cities of Umatilla and Hermiston, the counties of Benton, Umatilla, and Morrow, the states of Washington and Oregon, OHM Remediation Services, Tidewater Barge Company, FEMA, Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, and Tribal Nations.

The exercise will involve a simulated spill of hazardous materials stored in 55-gallon drums near the Interstate 82 bridge, which links Oregon and Washington. The exercise is designed to provide a training opportunity to enhance the ability to protect public health and safety in the unlikely event of a transportation accident.

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RL 96-095

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