

Fluor Hanford
MSIN B3-30
P.O. Box 1000
Richland, Washington 99352

Geoff Tyree
Media Relations
509.372.1145 tel
509.376.5704 fax

Judy Connell
Director, Communications
509.376.6808 tel

FLUOR[®]

News Release

HANFORD TO ACTIVATE EMERGENCY SIRENS

RICHLAND, Wash. – January 20, 2005 – Emergency sirens will be activated in the 300 Area of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site on Friday, January 21, 2005.

The emergency sirens in Hanford's 300 Area, just north of Richland, will be activated periodically for system testing between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Testing will consist of short public address messages and siren tones lasting no longer than one minute each. Public address messages stating, "This is a drill message," will be made before and after the siren tone is sounded.

Due to the proximity of the 300 Area to the Columbia River, nearby boaters may hear the sirens but do not need to respond.

In an emergency, County officials would activate the Emergency Alerting System to broadcast information to the public over local radio and television stations. Sirens located along the Columbia River would also be activated if it were necessary to warn people on the river.

Periodic emergency drills and siren tests are conducted at Hanford as part of the ongoing program to test emergency equipment and train workers on emergency response procedures.

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