

Fluor Idaho, LLC. News Release



For Immediate Release

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No Injuries or External Contamination Detected from Incident at DOE-Idaho Site

Emergency operations were terminated following an incident at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP 5) containment structure at the Department of Energy's Idaho site.

No injuries were reported nor environmental contamination detected from the incident Wednesday evening involving containers of radioactive waste in the building. A drum experienced elevated temperature and pressure resulting in its seal breaching and smoldering inside the drum as air contacted the material.

Emergency operations were terminated at 10:35 a.m. MDT Thursday. Plans are being made to enter the facility and gather more information for a recovery plan to be completed by Fluor Idaho, the environmental cleanup contractor at the Idaho Site.

All external surveys detected no radioactivity outside the building. The facility is engineered with specially designed high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, which are designed to trap contamination. No employees were in the building nor the surrounding area when the incident occurred.

Three Idaho National Laboratory firefighters responded to a fire alarm at 11:35 p.m. MDT Wednesday, extinguished the smoldering material and separated the drum from a dozen others nearby. Upon exiting the facility, the firefighters were assessed and had some minor external radioactive contamination that was subsequently removed from their skin.

Initial assessments indicated the workers received no detectable internal contamination. As a precaution, all three firefighters were transported to INL medical facilities in Idaho Falls for further assessment to confirm no internal uptake.

Since the 1950s, the Department of Energy has used the RWMC to manage, store and dispose of waste contaminated with radioactive and hazardous elements generated in national defense and research programs. RWMC is located 55 miles west of Idaho Falls on the DOE site. ARP 5 is used to process waste drums for eventual shipment out of Idaho.

Fluor Idaho, LLC, is a partnership comprised of Fluor Corporation, CH2M, North Wind Incorporated, Portage, and Waste Control Specialists. Fluor Idaho manages the Idaho Cleanup Project Core contract at the Department of Energy's Idaho Site located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls. The 5-year, \$1.4 billion project, funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management, focuses on early risk reduction and protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

For more information visit the Idaho Cleanup Project on the Web at <https://idahocleanupproject.com>