

ICP News Release 2

Date: April 12, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m MDT

Idaho National Laboratory Fire Department responds to incident at RWMC

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Fire Department responded to a fire alarm late Wednesday night at the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP 5) containment structure at the Idaho Cleanup Project's Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) involving release of material from a drum on the Department of Energy's INL Site.

There were no reports of injuries. The surrounding area is being monitored, and no contamination has been detected outside the facility. The ARP 5 facility is engineered with specially designed high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, which are designed to trap contamination.

There was an indication that a waste drum inside the facility had an elevated temperature and was breached. INL's Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center were both activated and remain operational in support of Fluor Idaho, the clean-up contractor at the Idaho Site.

Employees are reporting to work per their normal shifts. Some operations at RWMC are temporarily restricted.

The Radioactive Waste Management Complex is located 55 miles west of Idaho Falls on the DOE's INL Site. Since the 1950s, the Department of Energy (DOE) has used the RWMC to manage, store, and dispose of waste contaminated with radioactive and hazardous elements generated in national defense and research programs. The RWMC comprises 177 acres and includes three main areas: The operations and administration area, the Subsurface Disposal Area, and the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project. ARP 5 is used to process waste drums for eventual shipment out of the state of Idaho.

INL's emergency Joint Information Center at the Engineering Research Office Building, 2525 Fremont Ave., Idaho Falls, has been activated to respond to any questions you may have about this incident. Media and members of the public should call the phone numbers below, not your regular INL contacts.

Media Information: (208) 526-9206
Public Information: (208) 526-5042

Follow-up news releases will be posted on INL's website at: <http://fluor-idaho.com>.

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