

5 March 2010

Chem-Bio News

1. AL MABHOUH WAS SEDATED BEFORE HE WAS KILLED: "Dubai Police identified the substance used to tranquilize the Hamas official Mahmoud al-Mabhouh before he was killed."

2. [HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION] - WATER TOWER AT D REACTOR TUMBLES DOWN: "The last water tower that once served Hanford's plutonium-production reactors along the Columbia River has come crashing down."

3. DHS SUPPORTS IST FOR CHEMICAL FACILITY SECURITY: "The Obama administration supports consideration of inherently safer technology (IST) for chemical facility security standards and the extension of those standards to water and wastewater facilities, the top infrastructure protection official at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) testified Wednesday."

4. [TICS/TIMS] [UK] FOUR INJURED AFTER TOXIC GAS ESCAPES CHEMICAL SITE ON RIVER HUMBER: "The casualties suffered burns and toxic inhalation and were taken to hospital after the release of titanium tetrachloride from the firm Crystal Global on the south bank of the River Humber, according to the local coastguard."

5. SYRIA SUGGESTS ISRAEL PLANTED NUCLEAR TRACES BY AIR: "Syria suggested on Thursday that Israel dropped uranium particles onto Syrian soil from the air to make it look as if a covert nuclear weapons plant was being built there, diplomats at a U.N. nuclear watchdog meeting said."

Chem-Demil News

1. EDS (EXPLOSIVE DESTRUCTION SYSTEM): A CMA (Chemical Materials Agency) fact sheet depicting how the system works.

2. UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY [UMCDF] - DEQ APPROVES DAL SPRAY: "The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved on Feb. 26 UMCDF's permit modification request for the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) Discharge Airlock (DAL) water cooling system. Approval revises the permitted design to add cooling water sprays in the DAL and adds operating parameters for the quench system."

3. RUSSIA PLEDGES TO FINISH BUILDING CW DISPOSAL PLANTS IN 2011: "Only two of the facilities remain unfinished. Moscow this year will continue to emphasize construction and the continuing effort to eliminate 40,000 metric tons of chemical warfare materials, said Gen. Nikolai Abroskin, chief of the Federal Agency for Special Construction."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

AL MABHOUH WAS SEDATED BEFORE HE WAS KILLED

Dubai Police News
February 28, 2010

"Dubai Police identified the substance used to tranquilize the Hamas official Mahmoud al-Mabhouh before he was killed.

At press briefing held at the Dubai Police General Headquarters, Major General Khamis Mattar Al Mazeina, Dubai Police Deputy Commander-in-Chief, said the killers used the drug succinylcholine to sedate al-Mabhouh before they suffocated him. Al-Mabhouh was found dead in his hotel room in Al

Bustan Rotana Hotel in January 20.

According to Major General Al Mazeina, the assassins used this method so that it would seem that his death was natural as there were no signs of resistance shown by the victim.

A toxicological expert from the General Department of Forensic Sciences and Criminology at Dubai Police, said the drug succinylcholine, also known as Suxamethonium, is limited to short-term muscle relaxation in anesthesia and intensive care, usually for facilitation of endotracheal intubation. It has been in use since the pharmacological properties of succinylcholine were discovered around 1950 by K.H. Ginzel, H Klupp, and Gerhard Werner in Vienna, Austria.

He said the post mortem result revealed that the assassins had injected the victim with the drug. However, the results, did not show the amount injected as it is difficult to trace this drug."

The full article can be found at: http://www.dubaipolice.gov.ae/dp/english/news/news_show.jsp?Id=857382312&ArticalType=1

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[HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION] - WATER TOWER AT D REACTOR TUMBLES DOWN

By Annette Cary
The TriCity Herald
March 03, 2010

"The last water tower that once served Hanford's plutonium-production reactors along the Columbia River has come crashing down.

Workers were lifted to just below the tank of the 125-foot-tall water tower at D Reactor to attach a cable. Then a bulldozer pulled the 263-foot cable until the tower toppled."

.....

"Although two water towers still remain in central Hanford, the D Reactor tower was the last of those to come down as the Department of Energy works to clean up the Hanford nuclear reservation along the river by 2015. Each of Hanford's nine reactors once had a tower."

.....

"It's an indication of the continued progress we're making in cleaning up the river corridor and doing it safely, protecting the workers and the environment," Smith said.

The D Reactor tower was built during World War II and once was used as a backup water source for fire suppression. It originally had a redwood tank atop the pedestal, but by the early 1960s the wooden tank was replaced with a metal one that held 100,000 gallons of water.

It was used as a backup water source as recently as the 1980s.

Pulling down the tower required about 100 engineering calculations to do it safely, according to Washington Closure. In addition, power sources had to be disconnected and asbestos removed. The tower weighed 125 tons empty.

After it was pulled down, an excavator with shears cut it into pieces and the debris was taken to a landfill in the center of Hanford."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/03/03/923755/water-tower-at-d-reactor-tumbles.html>

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DHS SUPPORTS IST FOR CHEMICAL FACILITY SECURITY

By Mickey McCarter

HSToday.com

March 04, 2010

“The Obama administration supports consideration of inherently safer technology (IST) for chemical facility security standards and the extension of those standards to water and wastewater facilities, the top infrastructure protection official at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) testified Wednesday.

Rand Beers, undersecretary for National Protection and Programs, addressed the need to reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) administered by DHS and due to expire at the end of this fiscal year.

He called upon the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee for a permanent authorization to the program, even if no changes were made to it, as it has worked well to strengthen chemical facility security.

Indeed, the Obama administration would submit suggested legislation on how to extend CFATS to include provisions on inherently safer technology (IST) and water and wastewater facilities within several months, Beers predicted.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/12388/128/>

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[TICS/TIMS] [UK] FOUR INJURED AFTER TOXIC GAS ESCAPES CHEMICAL SITE ON RIVER HUMBER

The Times (UK)

March 05, 2010

“Four people were injured today after a cloud of toxic gas escaped from a company site at Stallingborough.

The casualties suffered burns and toxic inhalation and were taken to hospital after the release of titanium tetrachloride from the firm Crystal Global on the south bank of the River Humber, according to the local coastguard.

One of the injured people was transferred to a specialist burns unit at Pinderfield Hospital in Wakefield, West Yorks, Humber Coastguard added, and all shipping in the estuary was halted for several hours.

Mike Puplett, the watch manager, described the incident, which happened at around 12.30am, as “serious”.

Crystal Global, based at Stallingborough, near Grimsby, is a company producing a variety of chemicals and plastics.

The wind was blowing from a southwesterly direction towards the north east, taking the cloud across rural land and out to sea. A ship with an estimated 12 people on board sailed through the fumes, causing the boat to stop at Immingham.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article7050809.ece>

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SYRIA SUGGESTS ISRAEL PLANTED NUCLEAR TRACES BY AIR

By Mark Heinrich

Reuters

March 04, 2010

“Syria suggested on Thursday that Israel dropped uranium particles onto Syrian soil from the air to make it look as if a covert nuclear weapons plant was being built there, diplomats at a U.N. nuclear watchdog meeting said.

Damascus has strongly denied U.S. intelligence that a complex in the Syrian desert bombed to ruins by Israel in 2007 had been a nascent nuclear reactor, North Korean in design and geared to making plutonium for atomic bombs.

But International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano last month lent independent support to Western suspicions for the first time by saying uranium traces found in a 2008 visit by inspectors pointed to nuclear-related activity on the ground.

He said Syria was still refusing to let the IAEA re-examine the Dair Alzour site, take swipe samples from rubble removed immediately to an unknown location after the air strike, and check three other sites under military control whose look was altered by landscaping after inspectors asked for access.

In a closed-door debate by the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors, Syria reiterated its assertion that the uranium traces came with munitions Israel used to destroy the complex.

IAEA head inspector Olli Heinonen replied that the chemical composition, size, shape and distribution of the traces made it extremely unlikely they were a type of uranium sometimes used in munitions as a hardening agent, diplomats present said.

Rather, he said, they were traces of processed uranium -- which after further treatment could be used for nuclear fuel.”

The full article can be found at: <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-46662220100304>

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EDS (EXPLOSIVE DESTRUCTION SYSTEM)

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet

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A CMA (Chemical Materials Agency) fact sheet depicting how the system works

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682454>

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UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY [UMCDF] - DEQ APPROVES DAL SPRAY

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

March 04, 2010

“The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved on Feb. 26 UMCDF’s permit

modification request for the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) Discharge Airlock (DAL) water cooling system. Approval revises the permitted design to add cooling water sprays in the DAL and adds operating parameters for the quench system.

The change was designed to address episodes when combustion within the ton containers (TCs) continued after discharge from the DAL into the cool-down area, according to the DEQ notice of approval. That condition was attributed to the high temperature of the TCs and the incineration residues after treatment in the MPF. The TCs needed to be cooled to a lower temperature before discharge from the DAL in order to eliminate undesired emissions. The water cooling sprays installed by UMCDF have proven more efficient in cooling the TCs than the cooling air sprays, thereby reducing the amount of time the TCs have to remain in the DAL before being discharged into the cool-down area."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682475>
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RUSSIA PLEDGES TO FINISH BUILDING CW DISPOSAL PLANTS IN 2011

Global Security Newswire
March 04, 2010

"Russia intends to finish building its complement of seven planned chemical weapons disposal plants next year, RIA Novosti reported yesterday.

Only two of the facilities remain unfinished. Moscow this year will continue to emphasize construction and the continuing effort to eliminate 40,000 metric tons of chemical warfare materials, said Gen. Nikolai Abroskin, chief of the Federal Agency for Special Construction."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20100304_2031.php
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