



Nevada Site Office News

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For Immediate Release:

June 9, 2005 4:45 p.m.

GLOVEBOX FIRE AT NEVADA TEST SITE

A small fire has been reported and extinguished in a glove box at the Visual Examination and Repackaging Building (VERB) at the Nevada Test Site. A fire suppression system inside the glove box, a carbon dioxide system, was activated and extinguished the fire. Nevada Test Site Fire and Rescue personnel have responded to the scene.

No radiation has been detected outside the building housing the glove box.

A glove box is a containment box which allows personnel to open, inspect, sort, and repackage transuranic radioactive waste without direct contact. The glove box has a reverse-pressure air filtration system designed to contain and prevent any release of radioactive particles. In addition, the glove box is located in a secondary confinement structure within an industrial building. The VERB is located in the southeastern portion of the Nevada Test Site in Area 5.

Workers were in the process of checking transuranic waste for prohibited items prior to shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico when the fire occurred. Four workers in full personnel protective equipment were sorting the waste at the time of the incident.

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