



Rocky Flats News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory

GOLDEN, Colo., June 29, 2003 – A fire suppression sprinkler head that malfunctioned early Sunday morning prompted the Rocky Flats Emergency Operations Center to be briefly activated as a precautionary measure. There was no fire involved in the incident, nor any injuries to personnel.

The malfunctioning sprinkler head was discovered at approximately 3 a.m. in Room 3189 in Building 371. The cause of the malfunction was not immediately known.

Several thousand gallons of water discharged by the sprinkler system were released into Room 3189 and adjacent rooms, and some water flowed to an outside dock area before the flow of water was stopped. Excess water was contained within berms adjacent to the building. Preliminary sampling of the water did not indicate any radioactive contamination, although additional confirmatory sampling is continuing.

Room 3189 in Building 371 is a storage area that contained sealed drums of low-level waste material. There are no indications that any of the drums were breached, nor that any radioactive material was released.

Building 371 is a former plutonium recovery facility and is now used for processing, packaging and storage of waste and materials. Decontamination and decommissioning work is also occurring in the building.

Per standard procedures, appropriate local, state, and federal officials were notified. Rocky Flats is a DOE-owned former nuclear weapons production facility and environmental cleanup site operated by Kaiser-Hill Company under an accelerated closure contract. The Rocky Flats mission includes special nuclear material management and shipment, nuclear deactivation and decommissioning, waste management and shipment, environmental cleanup and site closure.