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Keith V. Taylor, (509) 376-2282

Email: [keith\\_v\\_taylor@rl.gov](mailto:keith_v_taylor@rl.gov)

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## **DOE TRAILER TO BE USED FOR FIREFIGHTING TRAINING IN HERMISTON**

Firefighters at the Hermiston Fire Department in Oregon will have the chance to practice search and rescue techniques using a trailer on loan from the U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office (DOE). The 48-foot long mobile unit is called the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Trailer. It is designed to train firefighters on how to rescue fire victims under confined space, visually impaired conditions.

"This trailer is a very valuable training tool that enhances the preparedness of firefighters throughout the Northwest. The training that firefighters receive here can one day save a life," said June Ollero, DOE's HAMMER program manager. HAMMER stands for Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response. It is a state of the art training facility for hazardous materials and emergency response workers. The facility is now under construction at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington.

The trailer is equipped with a command center and a wall of closed-circuit video monitors which allow instructors to evaluate how firefighters perform and recommend ways to improve rescue operations. Firefighters don about 60 pounds of gear as they crawl through the cramped, pitch black chambers to simulate attic entries into a smoke-filled home. They must actually find a dummy, which represents an unconscious victim, within minutes and bring it to safety.

The SCBA Trailer has already been used to train firefighters in the Tri-Cities, Yakima, Toppenish, Sunnyside, Moses Lake, Othello, Mattawa, and numerous other cities in the Northwest. "This trailer is just one example of the broad spectrum of world class training that will be available for hazardous and emergency workers nation wide once construction of the HAMMER facility is complete next year," said Ollero.

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Reporters are invited to cover the training program at the Hermiston Fire Department on Saturday, June 1, at 11:00 a.m. The address is 330 South First in Hermiston, Oregon. Opportunities to interview the firefighters and instructors will be available immediately following the training.

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