

Good Morning, everyone.

Thank you all for being here.

At this time, I would like to introduce Red, who will be acknowledging the importance of the place where we are today.

The land we stand on is the Indigenous land of Chinook people. The Chinook people were colonized and spread across the tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon that the Chinook people are represented in is the;

- * Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- * Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- * Confederated Tribes of Siletz
- * Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation
- * Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- * Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians
- * Coquille Indian Tribe
- * Klamath Tribes

The Chinook people can be found in the Cowlitz, Siletz, Wasco and even Yakima tribes.

(Story about the Willamette Falls)

When we talk about this land we need to acknowledge how this land does not belong to us but we belong to the land.

We need to recognize how powerful this earth we stand on is and how powerful of negative effects we can have on it.

We need to take care of the land the same way the land takes care of us!

My name is Dr. Juniper L. Simonis, I use they/them/their pronouns, and I am the owner and lead scientist of DAPPER LLC as well as the founder of the Chemical Weapons Research Consortium.

My degree is in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University, I have published over 20 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 50 technical scientific reports and have over 2 decades of scientific research experience including aquatic ecology, biogeochemistry, and environmental toxicology.

The work that I will be speaking about today was funded 100% internally through DAPPER, and I declare there are no conflicts of interest.

The purpose of this press conference is to inform the public here in Portland and around the country of the significant human and environmental dangers posed by law enforcement's weaponized use of munitions smokes.

The life-threatening dangers of these smokes have been known for three quarters of a century, yet have systematically been removed from Safety Data Sheets by manufacturers and intentionally ignored by police agencies.

In advance of J20, where it is expected that protesters, counter-protesters, and police will meet in cities around the country, I believe that it is my duty as a scientist engaged in research for the public good, to share this vital information that manufacturers and law enforcement agencies have obfuscated with my fellow Portlanders and Americans.

I believe that lives are very much at risk, and I prefer informing proactively to explaining retroactively.

Stepping back in time to the night of July 16th 2020, during the height of the summer's protests in support of Black lives and racial justice and against federal occupation, when Department of Homeland Security agents deployed what could only be described as an unholy thurible to disperse chemical agents into the crowd. Within minutes, report began appearing of novel, severe and mass symptoms in protesters, medics, press, legal observers, and bystanders.

Seasoned and new protesters alike were suddenly vomiting, having difficulty breathing, and experiencing chemical burns on their skins.

Many reported being bed-ridden for days, lethargic, losing hair, and feeling like they were going to die, hours and days later.

Quite a few sought off-site medical attention, as symptoms persisted through the end of July

In addition to people, trees, like our friend, the Troubled Tilia next to the courthouse, or this American Elm we are standing under experienced significant defoliation and the stormwater trap right at this corner, which drains untreated into Chinook salmon nesting and rearing habitat, has heavy metal and chlorate concentrations elevated up to 10 times, as the BES report page excerpted here and in your dossier shows.

Significant community-driven research, which is detailed in the report in your dossier, has identified the causal agent: Hexachloroethane Smoke, also known as HC.

Briefly, HC was designed after WWI by US Army Chemical Warfare Service as an obscurant smoke for use in open fields and on the water.

By the end of the Second World War, however, the lethality of HC had become clear and the military sought safer alternatives.

Like with all of the smoke and gas pyrotechnic grenades, an HC grenade is really a chemical reaction in a bottle.

And the significant human and environmental health risks come from both the HC itself (a listed EPA hazardous waste), which is a reagent, and its products, 75% of which (weight-by-weight) is molten, gaseous zinc chloride.

To be clear, when I say gas here, I mean it in the strict sense.

And Zinc Chloride gas combines the corrosive irritation of bleach vapor with the poisoning capacity of zinc metal fumes, a familiar concern to welders.

The lethality of HC smoke, even when used as intended, has been well established through both experimental studies and unintended human exposures.

Far from occurring in Ivory tower labs or Antifa Science Garages, many exposures have taken place in military, law enforcement, and carceral settings.

No more consequential to the present press conference than a 1998 event in rural northern Minnesota at the federal prison camp in Duluth with agents from federal correctional institution sandstone.

The US Bureau of Prison's After Action Report, made public in a subsequent law suit, Gamradt vs Federal Laboratories, details the event:

A hostage situation drill was taking place in a vacant 2-story building, and officers were pinned on the first floor of a stairwell, and need a tactic to overcome gunfire.

Plan a was a flashbang grenade, but none were available, so an HC smoke grenade was ignited and tossed up the stairs, only to come tumbling back down to the officers, now so hot it could not be moved.

Although the order was to wait for the smoke to clear, the unit was quickly engulfed in smoke and ran up the stairs, without gas masks, to reach the second floor.

The effects of the exposure were immediate and will be familiar to many: vomiting, difficulty breathing, hacking up black sputum.

Officers experienced persistent lethargy, headaches, and weight loss.

The plaintiff's symptoms were by no means atypical for the unit

As the case wound through the courts, it became clear that the device in the event was a Defense Technology Military Style Maximum Smoke HC grenade, Item 1083.

This item is a standard AN-M8 grenade and produces enough Zinc Chloride to kill 9 people (calculations detailed in the report)

Included in your dossier is the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided to the court in the After Action Report.

This MSDS was generated in 1993, and I'd like you to direct your attention to page 2, section 5, where the hazard decomposition products are listed on the fourth line: CCl₄, C₂Cl₄, Aluminum Oxide, and Zinc Chloride

Behind that, you'll find the MSDS Defense Technology produced in 2004, which shows the same hazardous decomposition products.

And its at this point in time, 2008, where Defense Technology settles for an undisclosed amount with Mr. Gamradt, who also receives a six-figure workmans compensation settlement from the US Department of Labor, marking at least two separate federal department (Justice and Labor) intimately aware of the consequences of HC.

So then we move on to the next MSDS, which comes in 2011, with a new format: the "hazard decomposition products" are now listed in section 10 stability and reactivity on page 4: Nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, lead oxides, carbon dioxide, and lead dust and fumes.

Note the disappearance of **all four previously mentioned compounds**, particularly HC

And finally, we see the 2015 MSDS, the one which is currently on DT's server, whose section 10 stability and reactivity list is on page 10 and has further been reduced by removal of mentions of lead.

That is, in response to being sued by a federal corrections officer for the impact of their HC smoke, rather than re-evaluate if the weapon was ok to continue producing, Defense Technology excerpted all mentions of its most toxic aspects, and kept right on selling them.

This downplaying of risk is extended to such a laughably horrendous extreme as Defense Technology has literally given its Item 1083 HC grenades a National Fire Protection Association fire diamond rating of

0 health hazard

0 fire risk

3 reactivity

All on scales of 0 to 4

For comparison, the NFPA health rating for Hexachloroethane is 2, for zinc oxide is 1, and for zinc chloride is 3... in its **solid state**.

Defense Technology has gone so far in removing health risks associated with HC that it literally considers HC a lower health risk than their Terephthalic acid (TPA) smoke, branded as SAF Smoke, which has an NFPA health rating of 2

This despite literally branding their SAF Smoke as less bad than HC

This kind of labeling is particularly alarming when departments like Portland Police Bureau already use and talk about their use of TPA as if it were “inert”.

In following up with PPB about their meaning of “inert” in describing smoke they used on NYE, the new Public Information Officer, Reverend Lieutenant Greg Pashley, declined to comment, and directed my inquiry to City Attorney Jenifer Johnston, who pointed me to the PPB disclosed documents, which label the smoke as caustic and noxious.

If the department and city can be so carelessly ignorant about the safer, yet labeled as more dangerous SAF Smoke, I shudder to think how they would deploy a far more dangerous, yet labeled as safer HC grenade.

This is of particular note when you see that despite PPB not mentioning HC in their arsenal, an invoice from 2018 to Aardvark, which you will find in your dossier, clearly includes HC grenades in part of their “Mix Pack” of grenades.

And although DHS has not used HC downtown since the end of July, they have deployed one grenade at the ice rental building on south macadm in late October, in the direct vicinity of the cottonwood charter school and a multi-story apartment building—whose tenants reported vomiting and coughing fits.

Beyond the city of Portland, Denver Metro Police “used or possibly used” HC smoke this summer, but appear to have it on hand; and in advance of the 2020 DNC, the city of Milwaukee received a bid for (and presumably) purchased 60 such grenades from a local shop (the bid for this purchase is also in your pamphlet) for a mere \$32.89 apiece.

Given their toxicity (one can kill 9 people), we’re talking basically \$3.65 per person

And Defense Technology is selling them to local weapons shops around the country, who can sell them to law enforcement, ex-military, or really anyone they decide, yet DT is labeling them as if they were harmless.

And so this, my friends, is why I called for this press conference today, because weapons manufacturers have worked to get a lethal gaseous weapon into the hands of law enforcement across jurisdictional levels around the country and told them it is not harmful to use.

And in advance of tomorrow, I hope to educate in hopes of avoiding serious injuries and deaths.

I plead with all law enforcement agencies who have HC in their arsenal to decommission it immediately. There is no reason for any police agency to possess it.

And I warn my comrades and fellow civilians that the risk posed by HC is severe and not always readily apparent.

Even with a proper gas mask, dermal uptake is significant enough to be lethal, but anything less than a fully functioning proper gas mask will not protect your face, as I can personally attest to.

My best advice if you see an HC grenade deployed is to exit the area (as calmly as possible) and seek open area.

Thankfully HC grenades are distinctive in that they burn HOT with visible flames for 1.5 – 2 minutes, compared to other grenades that only have visible flames for a few seconds.

Please learn from what our community has suffered blood, sweat, tears, hair, nails, and pounds for.

We protect us.

Black lives matter.

Land Back

You can find all of this content at [chemical weapons research dot com / hc](http://chemicalweaponsresearch.com/hc)

I'd be happy to take any questions