

ADVICE FOR CARE HOMES, SHELTERED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE

1. The responsibility for keeping all care homes, sheltered housing and people in community care likely to be effected by a Sizewell Off-site Nuclear Emergency informed of any actions to take resides with Suffolk local authorities. , County Council staff within the Directorate for Adult and Community Services will be the principle contact for care homes and staff within Suffolk Coastal District Council will be the principle contacts for sheltered housing,. Each will undertake to review this advice on an annual basis to ensure continuity and accuracy; changes will be made through the Suffolk JEPU.

Care Homes and Sheltered Housing schemes in Leiston must ensure arrangements exist to communicate this information to staff and to residents. It is suggested that this would be through the normal incident management processes/ business continuity plans.

2. Action To Be Taken Care Homes and Sheltered Housing within Leiston

If you hear of an incident at the Sizewell Nuclear Power Stations which is likely to affect people outside the power station site, the following actions should be taken while waiting for any other instructions from the Police (either directly or via local radio or TV), or from the County Council Directorate for Adult and Community Services.

- All staff and residents are to go indoors, external windows and doors should be closed and ventilation fans switched off.
- Switch on local radio and / or TV and wait for any special instructions.
- Staff and residents are not to go outside, not even for a break or to go home at the end of the day until advised that it is safe to do so by Suffolk County Council.
- Uncovered food and drink should not to be consumed until the Food Standards Agency has provided advice on safety.
- Advise County Council Adult and Community services or housing staff in Suffolk Coastal District Council of any care support that may be needed for sheltering up to 48hrs.

3. Action To Be Taken By Care Homes and Sheltered Housing Outside Leiston

If you hear of an incident at the Sizewell Nuclear Power Stations which is likely to affect people outside the power station site, the following actions should be taken while waiting for any other instructions from the Police (either directly or via local radio or TV), or from the County Council Director for Adult and Community Services (or representative) or the Assistant Chief Executive/ Head of Strategic Housing & Tenant Services, Suffolk Coastal District Council Suffolk.

- Continue with normal routine.

- Ensure that someone listens to local radio and / or TV for any special instructions.
- Contact Adult and Community Services, Suffolk County Council if you require further advice.

4. Community Care.

Adult and Community Services, Suffolk County Council will provide information to community care providers on actions to take in the event of an Sizewell emergency. This will follow the principles within paragraphs 2 and 3 for Leiston and areas beyond Leiston. It is likely that people living within the DEPZ will have been pre-issued with Potassium Iodate as an immediate countermeasure and instructions when to use this will be provided by automated telephone warning as per the general public within these areas. Where there is a known restriction on the ability of people being cared in the community to either receive this automated warning or to take Potassium Iodate tablets, community care providers may be asked to assist if safe to do so. As a last resort, where people in community care cannot be protected along with the general public, ACS will consider evacuating these people to ensure their continued safety.

5. General Information

5.1 **Evacuation**

In the unlikely event of an evacuation being necessary, the Police in conjunction with Suffolk County Council or Suffolk Coastal District Council will arrange for Care Homes or Sheltered Homes to be evacuated as complete units, and staff and residents will be taken to other care homes, sheltered homes or temporary accommodation where they will be looked after until longer term arrangements are resolved.

5.2 **Potassium Iodate Tablets.**

As a precaution it may be necessary for people living near the power station site to take Potassium Iodate tablets. The contents of these tablets top-up the thyroid gland with stable iodine. This reduces the uptake of any radioactive iodine that might have been released into the environment. Potassium Iodate tablets are not pre-issued to care homes, sheltered housing or community care outside of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone.

In the unlikely event of tablets being needed, instructions for such countermeasures will be issued by the Director of Public Health. These instructions will include how tablets will be made available and how they should be taken. Where Potassium Iodate tablets are provided to care homes, sheltered housing or people in community care, public health staff will be deployed to assist with any administration.

5.3 **Information**

Requests for information in respect of care homes should, where possible, be channelled through Adult and Community Services who will be kept informed of events by the County Council Emergency Control Centre.

Requests for information in respect of sheltered housing should, where possible, be channelled through the Head of Strategic Housing & Tenant Services who will be kept informed of events by the Suffolk Coastal Emergency Control Centre.

6. GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN

There is a national campaign to publicise what the public should do during emergencies, the Go In, Stay In and Tune In campaign. This will be used during any Off-Site Nuclear Emergency at Sizewell and is included in the information provided to residents close to the power stations.