

PRIOR INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN CENTRES

The responsibility resides with Suffolk County Council for advising managers of children centres of any actions to take if they are likely to be affected by a Sizewell Off-site Nuclear Emergency. Staff within the Directorate for Children and Young People will be the principle contacts and will undertake to review and reissue the advice on an annual basis to ensure continuity and accuracy.

Children Centres must have arrangements to communicate this information to staff and to parents/carers. It is suggested that this would be through the normal incident management processes/ business continuity plans.

1. Action To Be Taken for Children Centres 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 Children and Young People.

1.1 If the incident occurs during the normal working hours

- All staff and children 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 children 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.
- Parents should be advised not to collect their children.
- Parents should be advised to listen to local radio/TV.

1.2 If the incident occurs out of hours

- The Directorate for Children and Young People will arrange for local radio / TV stations to broadcast a message advising children centres not to open and for children to stay at home until further notice. The Suffolk County Council schools closure website will be updated.

2. Action To Be Taken By Children Centres 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 Director for Children and Young People (or her representative).

- Continue with normal routine.
- Ensure that someone listens to local radio and / or TV for any special instructions.
- Contact the Directorate for Children and Young People, Suffolk County Council, or your Integrated Services Manager if you require further advice.

3. General Information

3.1 **Evacuation**

In the unlikely event of a severe radiation emergency, an evacuation programme may be necessary. During working hours the Police will arrange for children centres to be evacuated as complete units, and staff and children will be taken to another school or hall where they will be accommodated until children can be reunited with their parents.

3.2 **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 for children's centres

In the unlikely event of tablets being needed for children and staff at a children centre, 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 Children Centres are provided with Potassium Iodate tablets, public health staff may be deployed to assist with any administration.

3.3 **Information**

Requests for information in respect of children centres should, where possible, be channelled through the Assistant Director Integrated Services or the Assistant Director School Organisation and Infrastructure who will be kept informed of events by the County Council Emergency Control Centre.

Information or action requests by school staff will be dealt with through the same channel.

Children Centre managers should endeavour to keep their Integrated Service Manager informed of events in their own localities.

4. 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. A 'Go In, Stay In, Tune In' awareness video aimed at younger school children is available via the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit.