

## **PRIOR INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS**

The responsibility for keeping all schools likely to be effected by a Sizewell Off-site Nuclear Emergency of any actions to take resides with Suffolk County Council. 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.

School governing bodies must ensure arrangements exist in school to communicate this information to pupils, staff and to parents. It is suggested that this would be through the normal critical incident management processes and business continuity plans. A review of the schools critical incident plan is strongly recommended to take into account the need for plans related to the Sizewell stations.

### 1. **Action To Be Taken By Schools In 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 school hours**

- All staff and pupils 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.
- Ensure that the telephone switchboard is staffed and ready to receive any special instructions. Outgoing calls should be limited.
- Staff and pupils are not to go outside, not even for a break or to go home at the end of the school 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 and to listen to local radio/TV.

#### 1.2. **If the incident occurs out of school hours**

- The Directorate for Children and Young People will arrange for local radio / TV stations to broadcast a message advising pupils of Leiston schools only to remain at home until further notice. The Suffolk County Council schools closure website will be updated.
- Schools must arrange for sufficient staff to be instructed to report to school to receive pupils who arrive in spite of the advice.

## 2. Action To Be Taken By Schools 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 school routine.
- Ensure that the school switchboard is staffed and that someone listens to local radio and / or TV for any special instructions.

## 3. General Information

### 3.1 **Evacuation**

In the unlikely event of a more extensive evacuation programme being necessary, during school hours the Police will arrange for schools to be evacuated as complete units, and staff and pupils will be taken to another school or hall where they will be accommodated until pupils 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 to schools.

In the unlikely event of tablets being needed for children and staff at a school, 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 schools 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 schools 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.

Headteachers should endeavour to keep one of the Strategic Managers (Learning Improvement Service) 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.