

The three circles on the map are 2 km, 4 km and 6 km from the Site.

# WHAT TO DO IN AN Emergency at Sellafield

This leaflet has been prepared for distribution to everyone living within 6km of the Sellafield Site

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Listen to local radio  
 Go to [www.cumbriaalert.info](http://www.cumbriaalert.info)  
 Dial 0808 909 8090

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## Introduction

- This booklet gives advice on what to do in the event of a serious emergency at the Sellafield Site. It must be stressed that the possibility of such an emergency is very remote and that the design and operation of all plant on the Site is to the highest standards of safety which are independently monitored by H.M. Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.
- Scientific research has shown that areas up to 2km (just over 1 mile) from the centre of the Site are most likely to be affected following an accident and people there may have to be evacuated. It may also be necessary for members of the public further afield to remain indoors. A map of the area is available at page 12.
- This booklet is issued at regular intervals and summarises emergency arrangements for the Sellafield Site which are contained in the Sellafield Off-Site Emergency Plan. The booklet is also available online at **www.cumbriaresilience.info**.
- This booklet has been produced in accordance with Government regulations\* and replaces the similar green coloured leaflet issued in October 2005 which should now be destroyed.

It is important that you study this booklet carefully and keep it in a safe place

\*The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001

## Further information

Further details concerning Sellafield Emergency Arrangements can be obtained at **www.cumbriaresilience.info** or from:

- **The Secretary, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group**  
Yottenfews Farmhouse, Sellafield, CA20 1PG  
Tel (019467) 85825/85802  
[www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk)  
[secretary@wcssg.co.uk](mailto:secretary@wcssg.co.uk)
- **The County Emergency Planning Officer,**  
Arroyo Block, The Castle, Carlisle, CA3 8UR  
Tel (01228) 815700  
[www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)  
[emergency.planning@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@cumbriacc.gov.uk)

**This publication can be provided in alternative formats such as large print, braille etc. It is also available in different languages. Please contact the Secretary, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group at the address above.**

## Telephone Warning System

- If you live within 2km of the Sellafield Site, you can ask to be alerted whenever the Site Siren is sounded. A short pre-recorded message will then tell you what actions (if any) you need to take.
- Should a Sellafield Emergency have occurred, the pre-recorded message will ask you to go indoors, close doors and windows, listen to local radio and follow the advice in this booklet.
- You will be asked to acknowledge receipt of the call by pressing a button on your telephone. *Please do not hang up before this happens.*
- The system will be tested a number of times each year. You will be notified in advance by letter when each test is to take place. The pre-recorded message will state clearly that it is a test.
- Alternative telephone numbers (e.g. mobiles, pagers, work numbers) can be rung if your main number is unanswered.
- If you wish to be placed on the system, or to change/check your numbers, please contact: Cumbria Emergency Planning Unit, The Castle, Carlisle, CA3 8UR. Tel (01228) 815700, Fax (01228) 815701, E-mail: emergency.planning@cumbriacc.gov.uk Please note that this system is not available to households further than 2km from the Site (See map on back of this leaflet).

## Your First Actions

### For use in the event of a Sellafield Emergency

#### 1 GO INDOORS AND STAY THERE

In an emergency the best thing to do is to go indoors. This will reduce the effects of a radioactive release.



#### 2 CLOSE DOORS AND WINDOWS

If you take care to close all doors and windows, you can greatly reduce any radioactivity in your home. Switch off fans and heating systems, close ventilators and put out open fires.



#### 3 TRY NOT TO USE TELEPHONES

In an emergency, all telephone systems may become overloaded and this may prevent emergency calls getting through. If you must make a call, please use a landline phone and be brief or send a mobile text message. Please do not make mobile telephone calls.



#### 4 LISTEN TO LOCAL RADIO

BBC Radio Cumbria on 104.1 MHz FM, 206m (1458KHz) MW or CFM on 103.4 MHz FM. If there is an incident, information and advice will be broadcast live on local radio.

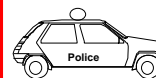


#### 5 DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LEAVE THE AREA

**Never** be tempted to leave the area unless the Police have told you to do so. You will be much safer indoors. If you are outside, you are more likely to be exposed to radioactivity and if you try to leave you may block the roads for the emergency services.



#### 6 FOLLOW EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVICE



For additional information see over.....

## Site Siren

- The Site Siren is designed to warn the Sellafield Workforce of an **On-Site** emergency, which may or may not pose a threat to the public.
- If you hear the siren you should:-
  - Go indoors, close doors and windows.
  - Find out more information:  
Either by listening to **local radio**  
or going to **www.cumbriaalert.info**  
or by dialling the Sellafield Emergency Information Line on **0808 909 8090** to hear a recorded message (please if possible do this on a landline telephone).
  - If the message says there is **no** hazard off-site, you can resume normal activities but please continue to monitor local radio in case the situation changes.
  - If the message says there is a Sellafield Emergency, follow the advice in the rest of this booklet.
- Please note that the siren is **never** used to sound the 'all clear'. The end of an emergency at the Site will be announced on local radio.
- The Siren is sounded a number of times each year during exercises. Advance notice is always given in the Whitehaven News and on BBC Radio Cumbria and CFM. If you hear the siren and are not sure if an exercise is taking place, find out more information by following the instructions above.

## Sellafield Emergency Information Line

- A pre-recorded message giving brief details of the current emergency state at the site is available at all times on **0808 909 8090**. Calls to this number are free (mobile operators may make a charge).
- If you need to dial the Information Line, please try not to use a mobile phone.

## Food and Water Restrictions

- The Food Standards Agency will produce precautionary advice regarding the safety of food in the early stages of an emergency. Cumbria County Council's Trading Standards Department will, if required by the Food Standards Agency, take appropriate action to prevent the sale of contaminated foodstuffs to the public.
- Mains water supplies would not initially be affected by a release of radioactivity and water for drinking etc. should be drawn fresh from the tap.
- If you have a private water source, where possible, use alternative supplies until the safety of your water has been confirmed.
- The Environment Agency, United Utilities and Copeland Borough Council Environmental Health Officers will arrange for sampling to be carried out and will issue advice concerning the safety of drinking water supplies.

## End of Emergency

- When the emergency is over, information will be broadcast on local radio.

## Evacuate (continued)

- Check your next door neighbours have been warned. If you know of anyone who is elderly or infirm and who might have difficulty during the evacuation, please help them. If you are unable to help, tell the Police about them.
- Do not attempt to collect children from schools. The Police and their teachers will ensure that they are looked after.
- If you wish to stay with friends or relatives elsewhere you will of course be free to do so. However, it is **vital** that you register at the reception centre first, so that if someone asks the Police about you, they will be able to say that you are safe.
- If you bring pets to the reception centre in a car, leave them in the car but do not fully close all the windows. Alternatively, temporary arrangements will be made for them.
- If you need to re enter the evacuation zone to look after livestock, please contact the Police first.

## What Could Happen?

- A nuclear emergency could occur following a fire, explosion or serious leakage in one of the areas handling radioactive materials at the Sellafield Site.
- If an accident occurs, material might be released in the form of a radioactive cloud which might not be visible and this could affect areas downwind and close to the Site. Under certain circumstances an accident leading to a release of direct radiation could also have implications for the site and those members of the general public who are close to the site boundary. *It is impossible for a nuclear bomb-type explosion to occur.*
- Radioactive material released in an accident can affect people in any of the following ways:
  - by breathing in some of the material
  - by direct radiation
  - by direct radiation from the cloud or material deposited nearby
  - by eating or drinking contaminated foods
- The environment around the Site will be monitored for radioactivity and if necessary the following countermeasures will be introduced:
  - sheltering
  - evacuation
  - restrictions on the consumption of locally grown produce, milk and water.
- The possibility of any immediate effect on health following a serious accident at Sellafield is extremely remote. There may be an increased risk of health effects which would not become evident for many years. The purpose of the above countermeasures is to make these risks as small as possible.
- Further information on what to do if an accident occurs is given in the following pages.

## What you may need to do

### Shelter

in your own home, or in the nearest building, if you are in the open. See page 7 for step by step advice about what to do.

### Evacuate

to a RECEPTION CENTRE. See page 7 for step by step advice about what to do.

### Follow advice on Food and Water Restrictions

Appropriate action will be taken by the relevant authorities to prevent the sale of contaminated foodstuffs to the public. Advice will also be given concerning the safety of drinking water supplies. See Page 9 for further advice.

### End of the Emergency

Information concerning the end of the emergency will be broadcast on local radio.

## Shelter

- Do not attempt to collect children from school. Their teachers and the Police will ensure that they are looked after.
- Close all doors and windows and switch off ventilation fans, air conditioning and heating systems. Put out open fires.
- Quickly check your neighbours have been warned and then immediately go indoors and stay there.
- Stay tuned to your local radio station  
BBC Radio Cumbria on 104.1 MHz FM, 206m (1458KHz) MW or CFM on 103.4 MHz FM.
- You will be told by the Police on local radio when it is safe to go outside again.

## Evacuate

- If the Police advise you to evacuate from the area they will direct you to a RECEPTION CENTRE, such as a local school, where you can stay until the emergency is over. The Police will tell you where the Reception Centre is.
- If you do not have transport, the Police may ask you to walk to an ASSEMBLY POINT from where a bus will take you to a Reception Centre.
- Use your own transport if possible and go directly to the Reception Centre. If travelling by car, keep all windows closed and turn off the heater and ventilation.
- If you have space in your vehicle, please take any neighbours who don't have their own transport.