

WHAT TO DO IN AN

Emergency at Sellafield

This information has been prepared
for distribution to everyone living
within the Detailed Emergency
Planning Zone for the Sellafield Site

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Listen to local radio
Dial the Sellafield Emergency
Information Line on
0808 909 8090

1st November 2018



Sellafield Ltd



Introduction

- This booklet gives advice on what to do in the event of an emergency at the Sellafield Site. It must be stressed that the possibility of such an emergency is remote and that the design and operation of all plants on the site is to the highest standards of safety which are independently monitored by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).
- Current scientific research indicates that areas up to 6km – 8km (approximately 4-5 miles) from the centre of the Sellafield Site are most likely to be affected following an accident. In certain circumstances depending on the nature of the incident some people living closer to the site may have to be evacuated to provide enhanced protection.
- This booklet is issued at regular intervals and summarises emergency arrangements for the Sellafield Site which are contained in the multi - agency Sellafield Off-Site Emergency Plan. The booklet is also available on-line at the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group Website - **www.wcssg.co.uk**.
- This booklet has been produced in accordance with Government regulations* and replaces the similar booklet issued in 2013 which should now be disposed of.

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

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

Your First Actions

1 GO INDOORS AND STAY THERE

In an emergency the best thing to do is to go indoors. Sheltering will help 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, put out open fires and close all ventilators.



3 TRY NOT TO USE TELEPHONES

In an emergency, 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

Listen and take note of the information provided in most cases by the Police. Do not act upon rumour and/or conjecture, take heed of official guidance only.



Site Incident/Operational Alert Siren (warbling noise)

- If you hear the Site Incident/Operational Alert Siren, you can carry on with your normal activities as the hazard is confined to the site. If in any doubt, ring the Sellafield Emergency Information Line on **0808 909 8090**.

Off-Site Nuclear Emergency Siren (fog horn noise)

- If you hear the Sellafield Emergency Siren, go indoors, close doors and windows and follow the instructions in the rest of this booklet. Listen to local radio for further advice.
- Please note that the sirens are never used to sound the 'all clear'. The end of an emergency at the Site will be announced on local radio.
- The Sirens are 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. Letters are also issued with information. If you hear a siren and are not sure if an exercise is taking place, find out more information by calling the Sellafield Emergency Information Line on **0808 909 8090**.
- If you wish to hear what the sirens sound like, dial **0800 022 4191** where you can hear a recording or go to **www.wcssg.co.uk** where you can hear the sounds online.

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 during an emergency, please try to avoid using a mobile phone.

What Could Happen?

- A nuclear emergency could occur following a fire, explosion, seismic event 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 detonation 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 from the atmosphere 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:
 - 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

Sheltering can dramatically reduce the levels of radiation you could be exposed to. Therefore do not hesitate in making your way indoors if notified to do so. This could be in your own home, or in the nearest building. See page 7 for step by step advice about what to do.

Evacuate

You may be advised to evacuate your home but you must remain in shelter until told to do so. If evacuation is implemented go directly to a Reception Centre. See page 7 for step by step advice about what to do. Evacuation is most likely to affect those people living/working immediately adjacent to the site.

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

- 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.
- If your children are at school during an emergency, you will naturally want to collect them as soon as possible; however, it may not be safe to do so. They will be looked after as a priority group either at the school or evacuated to a safe place where they will be looked after by the school staff and those responding to the emergency. Please listen to local radio for advice and details of the arrangements that have been made.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Evacuate (continued)

- Check your next door neighbours have been warned, where practicable. 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.
- If your children are at school during an emergency, you will naturally want to collect them as soon as possible; however, it may not be safe to do so. They will be looked after as a priority group either at the school or evacuated to a safe place where they will be looked after by the school staff and those responding to the emergency. Please listen to local radio for advice and details of the arrangements that have been made.
- 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 via the registration process at the Reception Centre.
- Re entry to any evacuated areas during the emergency will normally be restricted by the Police to persons having compelling reasons for doing so. Arrangements could be made, for example, for essential feeding of livestock. Please contact the Police first before attempting to re-enter.

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, if 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.

Household Insurance

- Household insurance policies do not normally cover damage from radioactive releases. Claims for compensation following an accident will be dealt with by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Sellafield Ltd who will announce details of how claims can be submitted.

Telephone Warning System

- If you live within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone for the Sellafield Site, you can ask to be alerted whenever a Siren is sounded. A short pre-recorded message will then tell you what actions (if any) you need to take.
- Should a Site Incident/Operational Alert have occurred you will be able to carry on with your normal activity.
- Should an Off Site Nuclear Emergency have occurred, the pre-recorded message will tell you to go indoors, close doors and windows, listen to local radio and follow the advice in this booklet.
- The system will be tested a number of times each year. In advance of a test taking place advertisements will be placed in local print media. The pre-recorded message will state clearly that it is a test.
- Alternative telephone numbers (e.g. mobiles, pagers, work numbers) can be called if your main number is unanswered.
- If you wish to be placed on the system, or to change/check your numbers, please contact: Cumbria Resilience Unit, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Carleton Avenue, Penrith, CA10 2FA.
Tel (01768) 812500
E-mail: emergency.planning@cumbria.gov.uk

Please note that this system is only available to households/premises within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (See map on back of this leaflet).

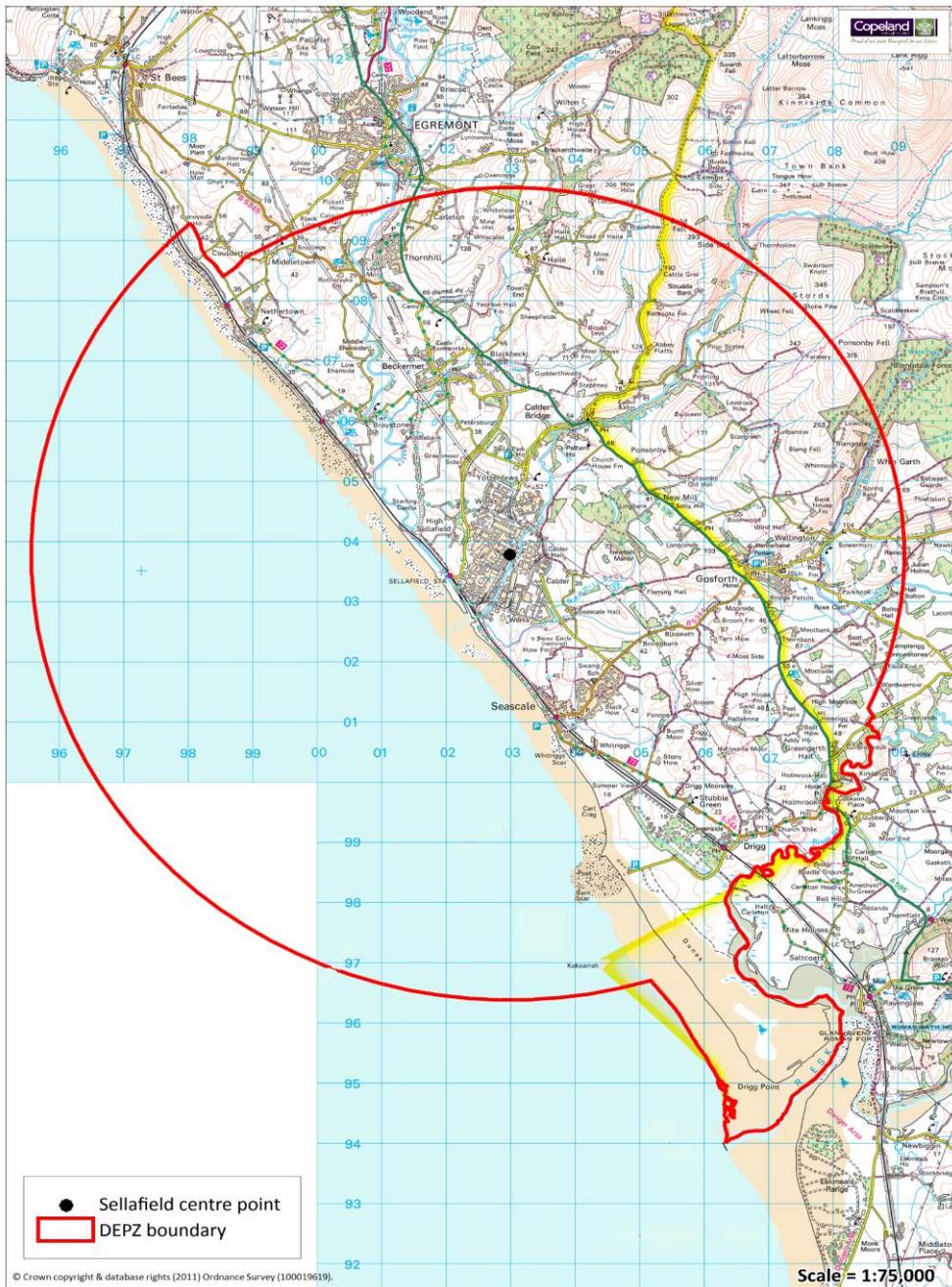
Further Information

Further details concerning Sellafield Emergency Arrangements can be obtained at www.wcssg.co.uk or from:

- **The Secretary, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group**
Banna Court, Westlakes Science & Technology Park
Ingwell Drive, Moor Row
CA24 3HW
Tel (019467) 85802
www.wcssg.co.uk
secretary@wcssg.co.uk

- **Resilience Manager, Resilience Unit**
Cumbria County Council
Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Carleton Avenue,
Penrith CA10 2FA
Tel (01768) 812500
www.cumbria.gov.uk
emergency.planning@cumbria.gov.uk

This publication can be provided in alternative formats on request. Please contact the Secretary, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group at the address above.



The new Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for Sellafeld as determined by the Office for Nuclear Regulation.