



# NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EMERGENCIES

Nuclear power plants are designed to rigorous standards, have many redundant safety features, and are carefully regulated and monitored; however, problems and accidents can happen. If a nuclear power plant emergency did occur, it could result in dangerously high levels of radiation in your area, especially within 10 miles of the plant. Exposure to high levels of radiation is extremely dangerous to you and your family. Radiation can also contaminate the water and soil within a 50-mile radius.

All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to be informed about what might happen, make a family emergency plan, and build an emergency supply kit.

## *How to Prepare*

- Be aware of local emergency plans should an emergency occur, especially if you live within 10 miles of a plant.
- Know nuclear emergency terms:
  - **Notification of Unusual Event**—There is a small problem at the plant which did not result in the escape of any radiation. There is no immediate danger, and you are not required to do anything in response.
  - **Alert**—There is a small problem at the plant where a small amount of radiation could have leaked inside the plant. There is no immediate danger, and you are not required to do anything in response.
  - **Site Area Emergency**—Listen for possible area sirens. Stay tuned to the radio or TV for safety information.
  - **General Emergency**—There has been an emergency at the plant in which radiation could leak outside the plant. Listen for sirens. Stay tuned to the radio and TV for instruction and information reports.
- Promptly follow any instructions given.
- Develop a family evacuation procedure.
- Build an emergency supply kit, including food, water and other supplies for at least three days. See Ready.gov ([www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)) for more information on kits.



## *What to Do If There is a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency*

- Stay tuned to the radio or TV and listen for instructions.
- Keep as much distance or shielding, such as lead or concrete, between you and the source of the radiation as possible.
- If you are told to evacuate:
  - Take your emergency supply kit.
  - Follow the designated evacuation path.
  - Keep windows and vents closed to minimize exposure to radiation.

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### ***What to Do If There is a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency (continued)***

- If you are told NOT to evacuate:
  - Turn off air conditioners, ventilators, furnaces, and any other air intakes.
  - Do not go outside.
  - Try not to use the telephone unless it is absolutely necessary.
  - Stay in a basement or underground room if at all possible.
  - Keep food covered at all times.
  - Uncovered food should be washed and covered or discarded.
- If you have been exposed to radiation:
  - Remove clothes and seal them in a plastic bag.
  - Place the sealed clothing in a separate room.
  - Take a very thorough shower.
  - Seek medical attention.

### ***What to Do After a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency***

- Do not return from evacuation until you are told to do so.
- Water can be contaminated, so listen for reports about its safety.

### ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Ready.gov—  
<http://www.ready.gov/nuclear-power-plants>

### ***Semper Paratus***

**Be “Always Ready.”** Be informed about what might happen, make an emergency plan with your family, and build an emergency supply kit good for at least three days.

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