

Emergency Planning for Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant

Emergency Planning

Every year, many thousands of families have to leave their homes because of emergencies. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army operate thousands of temporary relocation centers as a result of natural acts, like hurricanes and tornadoes, and because of large accidents like explosions, fires and serious transportation accidents.

Government officials and the utilities operating nuclear power plants recognize the need for emergency planning. Entergy Nuclear Northeast, the operator of the nuclear plants at Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, has worked closely with federal, state, county and local officials to develop comprehensive plans for handling an emergency. Standards for these plans, including the establishment of the 10-mile emergency planning zone around nuclear plants, have been set by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Emergency Classifications

The federal government established four classes to describe emergencies at nuclear power plants. In order from the least to the most serious, they are:

- An Unusual Event indicates a potential problem with operation of the plant. Emergency officials are notified, but no public action is required.
- An Alert indicates an event that could reduce the plant's level of safety but would not require public action. Any release of radioactivity would be a small fraction of federal protective action guidelines.
- A Site Area Emergency indicates a problem that substantially reduces the plant's level of safety. Releases of radioactivity outside the plant site would not be expected to exceed federal protective action guidelines.
- A General Emergency indicates a problem affecting the plant safety systems that could lead to a release of radioactivity that would exceed federal protective action guidelines outside the plant site.

Notification

Sirens have been installed around Indian Point to alert people in the area of an emergency that could require them to take action. The sirens are only a signal to turn on an Emergency Alert System (EAS) station for more information.

The sirens are loud, high-pitched alarms. Unlike fire sirens, these special sirens would be sounded for three to five minutes without interruption.

In some areas where sirens may not be heard, automated telephone calling systems or special single-station alert radios will be used to notify residents of an emergency. People in these areas have been told how to obtain these radios. For visitors and those not familiar with the area, information on what to do in an emergency has been posted in parks and other public places. Boaters, commercial river traffic and people fishing on the Hudson River will be notified by the U.S. Coast Guard in an emergency.

If you hear a steady, three- to five-minute siren sound or are alerted by police, turn on your radio to an EAS station. These stations will provide information about the nature of the emergency and the protective actions you should take. Stay tuned to an EAS station and follow official instructions carefully until you hear that the emergency has ended.

The primary EAS stations serving this area are:

WHUD-FM	100.7	MHz	Peekskill
WABC-AM	770	kHz	New York
WCBS-AM	880	kHz	New York
WABC-TV	Ch 7		New York
WCBS-TV	Ch 2		New York
WFAN-AM	660	kHz	New York
WNBC-TV	Ch 4		New York
WFAS-FM	103.9	MHz	White Plains
WRRV-FM	92.7	MHz	Middletown
WALL-AM	1340	kHz	Middletown
WFAS-AM	1230	kHz	White Plains
WLNA-AM	1420	kHz	Peekskill

While EAS messages may be carried on other stations, you should stay tuned to one of the primary stations. EAS messages will be made by state and county officials. You should follow the protective actions advised by these officials.

Emergency information may also be carried on the following stations:

WVIP-AM	1310	kHz	Mount Kisco
WXPB-FM	107.1	MHz	Hawthorne
WTBQ-AM	1110	kHz	Florida
WGNV-FM	103.1	MHz	Newburgh
WLIR-AM	1300	kHz	Nanuet
WRKL-AM	910	kHz	Pomona

False Siren Activations

A siren may sound when it is not supposed to—a false alarm. If you hear a steady, uninterrupted siren sounding for three- to five-minutes, and there is no EAS message on the radio within several minutes, there is no emergency at the Indian Point nuclear power plants.

If you HEAR a three- to five-minute SIREN:

Turn to an Emergency Alert System (EAS) station for official information concerning the emergency.

If told by an EAS message to stay indoors, remain in your home or place of business.

Please don't use the telephone, except to call for help, so lines will not be overloaded.

Actions

In order to give you the greatest degree of protection, instructions for any protective action will be given by county or state officials based on careful consideration of all factors.

The decisions may be as follows:

EVACUATION

If it is necessary to evacuate an area to separate you from the hazard, you will be informed by an announcement on your EAS station. The message, and other news reports, will include any special instructions for a particular situation. If you are advised to evacuate, swallow one Potassium Iodide (KI) tablet and proceed to your designated Reception Center. Follow instructions promptly and carefully.

- Remain calm - you will have ample time to leave.
- Ignore all rumors. Stay tuned to an EAS station for official instructions.
- Don't use the telephone, so lines will not be overloaded.
- Gather the items you would need for a three-day visit, including:
 - ✓ Clothing
 - ✓ Blankets or sleeping bags
 - ✓ Prescription medicines, if needed
 - ✓ Personal items, like shaving kits, soap and cosmetics
 - ✓ Formula and other needs for infants and children
 - ✓ Checkbook, credit cards and important papers
 - ✓ A portable radio, flashlight and batteries
- Offer a ride to anyone you know who may not have a car.
- Close the windows and air vents of your car, and do not operate the air conditioner until you have left the emergency area.
- Follow the recommended evacuation routes. Shortcuts may be blocked.

NOTE: For sanitation and safety reasons, family pets will not be allowed in public shelters. Alternative facilities should be available for your pets. Plan to bring pet food and other pet supplies with you.

For nuclear emergencies at the Indian Point nuclear power plants, designated Reception Centers and evacuation routes have been identified.

- Families going to the home of a friend or relative outside the emergency planning zone can use a Reception Center as a meeting place and message center.
- If you cannot stay at the home of a friend or relative, you will be assigned to a nearby Congregate Care Center (temporary shelter).
- Congregate Care Centers will be professionally staffed by the American Red Cross and will offer food, medical care, communications, sleeping and sanitation facilities.
- No firearms, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed.

If you are not in an area in which people have been told to stay indoors - or evacuate - do not enter that area until you have heard an EAS message that states all is clear and emergency workers have removed roadblocks.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Sheltering is one protective action that might be recommended in an emergency to provide a physical barrier between you and the hazard. If you are told to shelter-in-place, swallow one Potassium Iodide (KI) tablet, stay calm and do the following:

- Stay tuned to an Emergency Alert System (EAS) station.
- Keep your family and pets inside the house.
- Close all outside doors and windows.
- Turn off fans, furnaces, air conditioners and other ventilation systems.
- Put out fires in fireplaces. Close dampers after fireplaces cool.
- Don't use the telephone, except to call for help, so lines will not be overloaded.
- Stay off the roads. Unless told to leave the area, you will be safer staying inside.

SCHOOLS

While not all situations would require action by children in school, in some emergencies one or more of the following actions might be taken:

- If county emergency officials decide that children would be safer going home immediately, the school's regular early dismissal plan would be used.
- If county emergency officials decide that it would be safer to remain indoors, students and school personnel will stay in their school buildings and await further instructions.
- If the emergency requires evacuation, students and school personnel would be taken by bus to a designated school reception center outside the area.

During an emergency, official announcements will include information on any actions being taken for your children's safety.

This plan has been developed to allow students to be taken out of the emergency area as safely and efficiently as possible.

INFORMATION

Residents and businesses located within the 10 mile EPZ will receive a booklet with detailed information about many aspects of the emergency plan. The booklet is entitled "Planning for Emergencies." To order a booklet or for non-emergency questions and general information concerning these preparations, please call the numbers listed below during business hours, Monday through Friday.

Orange County Emergency Management Office
(1-800 942-7136)

New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission
(1-518 485-6011)

During an emergency at the Indian Point nuclear power plants, a special number will be announced through the news media to call if you hear reports in conflict with official information.

This paid service announcement was placed by the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission which assumes sole responsibility for its content. Any questions about this information should be directed to the New York State Emergency Management Office, 1220 Washington Avenue, Building 22, Suite 101, Albany, NY 12226-2251.