



RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Evacuation Fact Sheet

Definition

“Evacuation” is an action that is defined as the urgent removal of people from an area to avoid or reduce high-level, short-term radiation exposure, usually from a plume or deposited activity.

Evacuation would only be recommended during a General Emergency declaration at a commercial nuclear power plant.

Planning

State and local agencies develop detailed evacuation plans for populations within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) as part of emergency preparedness planning for nuclear energy facilities.

Evacuation plans typically include several scenarios to reflect such variables as:

- Time of day.
- Season.
- Weather conditions.
- Population group (general, transient and special facilities, such as schools and hospitals).

The EPZ is subdivided into emergency response planning areas or protective action areas. Population estimates are provided for each area. Plans and evacuation time estimates are updated periodically to reflect population shifts and changes in the transportation network. Should officials decide to evacuate some areas near the facility, they will map evacuation areas based on weather conditions and wind direction.

“Evacuation does not always call for completely emptying the 10-mile zone around a nuclear power plant. In most cases, the release of radioactive material from a plant during a major incident would move with the wind, not in all directions surrounding the plant,” according to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. “The release also would ... become less concentrated as it travels away from a plant.” Emergency Planning Guides are distributed annually to residents of the 10-mile EPZ. These guides contain information on evacuation routes and reception center locations.

Procedures

Officials would use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio and television stations to provide information and instructions to the public. These stations would be the official source of information during an emergency. Different areas could be directed to take different actions, so instructions will be provided in terms of the communities or areas within 10 miles of Indian Point. These areas are shown in the EPZ Map. Find your location on the map and listen carefully for information concerning your area.

Each situation will be different. Emergency officials consider many factors to make sure that it is safe to evacuate. Evacuation decisions will be based on wind speed and direction, the size and extent of the disaster, the radiation levels, and whether or not roads and structures are damaged.

Once you have been notified to evacuate, follow the instructions given by local and state authorities.

- Stay calm – don't panic.
- Close all structure doors and windows.
- Prepare home as if leaving on vacation.
- Post "NOTIFIED" sign for authorities.
- Assist neighbors as needed, if possible.
- Report to your county Reception Center.
- Keep vehicle windows and vents closed.
- During a General Emergency evacuation, administer potassium iodide (KI) when directed and if available.
- Do not delay your evacuation to locate or administer KI.

Local emergency officials have plans to help those who do not have access to transportation. Transportation will be provided to evacuate people from dangerous areas.

What to Bring With You

- Personal identification.
- Prescription medications.
- Baby formula and diapers.
- Cash, checkbook and credit cards.
- Clothing for a week per person.
- Portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Potassium iodide (KI).
- Personal hygiene items.
- Bedding (sleeping bags and pillows).
- Household pets, cages, supplies and food.
- Wet wipes and/or towels.

Evacuating with Pets

- Listen for instructions and information on pet evacuation and the location of available pet shelters.
- If evacuating with a pet, bring a cage, leash, food, medication, and veterinary records, including immunization records.
- Pets will not be allowed into any shelter until they have been washed to remove radioactive material.

Reception Centers

There are pre-designated county emergency facilities, located outside the plume exposure pathway, to report to for evacuation and evaluation. The following will occur at the reception center:

- Radiological monitoring for contamination (people, pets and vehicles).
- Registration.
- Decontamination if needed.
- Medical assistance if needed.

Where to Stay

After registering at the emergency reception center:

- You can stay with relatives or friends outside of the affected area.
- You can stay at a congregate care center operated by the American Red Cross or other agency.