

Irvine Valley College Police Department Emergency Management

Nuclear Plant Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Planning

Federal law requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to ensure the health and safety of citizens in areas near nuclear power plants. This includes strict licensing requirements for power plants and emergency planning and preparedness for the general public. For planning purposes, the NRC defines two Emergency Planning Zones (EPZ) around nuclear power plants. The exact size and configuration of the zones vary from plant to plant due to local emergency response needs and capabilities, population, land characteristics, access routes, and jurisdictional boundaries, and etcetera. The two types of Emergency Planning Zones are:

- The plume exposure pathway EPZ extends about 10 miles in radius around a plant. Its primary concern is the exposure of the public to, and the inhalation of, airborne radioactive contamination.
- The ingestion pathway EPZ extends about 50 miles in radius around a plant. Its primary concern is the ingestion of food and liquid that is contaminated by radioactivity.

In addition to the Emergency Planning Zones, and for the purpose of emergency preparedness, federal and state authorities have designated a Public Education Zone (PEZ)

- Within Public Education Zones, including areas approximately 35 miles from the plants, educational materials are distributed to inform the public about nuclear power plant operations, what to expect in the event of an accident, and what plans are in place for public protection. The utilities that operate the power plants are required to publish and disseminate information for residents and transient populations.

Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College are located within the Emergency Planning Zone for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). Although neither are in the 'plume exposure pathway' EPZ, both are in the 'ingestion pathway' EPZ. If you live within the plume exposure pathway, County of Orange, in conjunction with other local jurisdictions, such as San Onofre, the Cities of Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente, and State of California have developed detailed plans for your safety in the event of an emergency at SONGS.

What is an emergency?

An emergency can be a problem, or a potential problem, at SONGS. Federal guidelines classify emergency conditions into four levels depending on the situation. They are:

1. Unusual Event

The least serious of the four classifications. A minor problem has occurred at the plant. Appropriate officials are notified. No action by the public is necessary.

2. Alert

An event that could reduce the level of safety of the plant, but backup plant systems are available. Emergency agencies are notified. No action by the public is necessary.

3. Site Area Emergency

A potential or actual problem with a safety system. News media briefings are scheduled to keep the public informed.

4. General Emergency

The most serious emergency situation. Utility experts, regulatory agencies and local officials determine what public actions are necessary.

How will I be notified if there is an emergency?

If you live in the 'plume exposure pathway' PEZ, you will be notified of an emergency by [community alert sirens](#), roving public address systems, and/or [emergency phone calls](#). The sirens are a signal for you to turn your radio or television to a local Emergency Alert System (EAS) station for important information from local officials. Do not call 9-1-1 if you hear the sirens, unless you have a life-threatening emergency. The below radio station will broadcast emergency information:

- KWVE FM 107.9 - Santa Ana
- KOGO AM 600 - San Diego

The EAS messages and media releases will include information about the emergency, as well as detailed information on reception center locations, evacuation or sheltering instructions, and other useful information such as whether or not the County Health Officers have authorized people to take potassium iodide (KI).

There is an annual siren test is conducted each fall; residents and businesses will receive notification in the mail. No action on your part is required during the test.

What is the difference between Sheltering and Evacuation?

You may be asked to take sheltering precautions by staying indoors, closing all ventilators, windows and doors, turning off air conditioners and closing fireplace dampers. If you are asked to evacuate, please stay calm. Go to the Reception Center at the Orange County Fairgrounds located at 88 Fair Drive in Costa Mesa. If you are at work and your home is in the EPZ, do not go home. Instead, go to the Reception Center.

Designated Evacuation Routes and Directions

If an order to evacuate is given, individuals who live and/or work in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) would be directed north to locations outside the three south Orange County cities of San Clemente, Dana Point and San Juan Capistrano. Interstate 5 and Pacific Coast Highway are the designated thoroughfares, but be sure to follow directions of law enforcement officers as traffic patterns may change.

What is a Reception Center?

A reception center is a meeting place for evacuees to check in and register, get assistance from the American Red Cross, and reunite with family members. The Orange County Reception Center is located at the Orange County Fairgrounds at 88 Fair Drive in Costa Mesa. If your spouse is at work, or children are in school, do not wait for them. They will be directed to the Reception Center. The Reception Center will arrange for you to be reunited with your family at a later time. If you are at work and your home is in the EPZ, do not go home. Instead, go to the Reception Center. At the Reception Center, evacuees will be provided with a place to sleep, meals and medical attention, if needed. In the event of a radiological release, government health and fire department personnel will be available to monitor evacuees for exposure to radiological contamination and take appropriate actions.

What do I do if my children are in a school located in an EPZ when an emergency is declared?

All public schools in Capistrano Unified School District have an emergency plan that is practiced by staff and students several times a year. School emergency plans include transportation of students to a designated reception center. For that reason, the convergence of parents and caregivers at schools will only delay the timely evacuation of students to a safe place where they

can be reunited with loved ones. Parents and caregivers of CUSD students will be notified of emergency actions through several overlapping means, as follows:

- Connect-ED - A Web-based service that allows the delivery of thousands of messages within minutes to cell phones, home phones, work phones, Emails, text messages and voice mails
- List Serve - Email from school
- CUSD Web site
- Radio and television broadcasts

Planning is the primary key to proper emergency preparedness. Register your cell phone or email address to receive emergency notifications from your local jurisdiction at www.AlertOC.com. You can also register your cell phone or email on MySite for campus emergency notifications.

Most importantly, have a family emergency plan and practice it! You can obtain additional information on family planning at www.ReadyOC.org.