



# COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC

No matter how unlikely the chances of an emergency, nuclear power plants are required to have emergency plans to handle any incident. Constellation Energy has detailed emergency response plans for Nine Mile Point. The plans are approved by local, state and federal government agencies. Both the plans and the personnel are routinely trained and tested by the appropriate federal agencies and emergency drills are held on a regular basis.

## Notification of an Emergency

State and county officials are responsible for notifying the public concerning any actions needed to protect public health and safety. The primary notification systems are:

- The local area siren system
- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- National Weather Service tone alert radios

## Nine Mile Point's Siren & Alert System

In a community emergency, Nine Mile Point's system of 37 sirens would sound a steady three-to-five minute signal, which may vary in loudness as the siren rotates. This differs from a local volunteer fire station siren, which uses several short bursts of sound for one minute or less and is meant to notify the firefighters and/or rescue squad of a fire or rescue emergency. It is important to remember that Nine Mile Point's sirens may be used to alert the public to other emergencies, such as dangerous weather conditions.

Activation of the sirens signals to the public to turn on their radios or televisions and listen for an EAS message which will provide instructions on how to respond to the emergency situation.

The emergency sirens are tested, one at a time, four times a year and a full-scale, simultaneous activation of all 37 sirens takes place once each year. The tone alert radios are tested each Wednesday, generally between 11 a.m. and noon.

Tone alert radios have been distributed to areas where siren coverage is not effective due to low population density. These radios will sound an alarm to warn residents of an emergency, and a message will follow indicating why the alarm sounded.

## Other Alert Notifications

The County Emergency Management Agency may use a county telephone notification system that allows the county to call your telephone number using a telemarketing-type system. Local authorities could also use mobile public address (PA) systems, bullhorns, and even knock on doors to ensure you have accurate, timely information.

## Local EAS Stations

Emergency messages will be broadcast on the following primary emergency alert system (EAS) stations:

- WHEN–AM 620 kHz, Syracuse
- WYYY–FM 94.5 MHz, Syracuse
- WBBS–FM 104.7 MHz, Syracuse
- WWHT–FM 107.9 MHz, Syracuse
- WSTM–TV Channel 3, Syracuse

EAS messages are also expected to be broadcast on the following stations:

- WSCP–AM 1070, Pulaski
- WAMF–AM 1300 kHz, Fulton
- WNYO–FM 88.9 MHz, SUNY Oswego
- WRVO–FM 89.9 MHz, Oswego
- WSCP–FM 101.7 MHz, Pulaski
- WTVH–TV Channel 5, Syracuse
- WSYR–TV Channel 9, East Syracuse
- WNYS–TV Channel 43, Syracuse
- WSYT–TV Channel 68, Syracuse
- News10 Now–TV Channel 10, Syracuse  
(Time Warner Cable customers only)

## Protective Action Guidelines

During a radiological emergency, state and local officials use Protective Action Guidelines (PAGs) developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine the appropriate actions to take. County and State personnel determine if protective actions are necessary, and whether sheltering or evacuation would be most effective. This determination is based on PAGs, plant conditions, county and licensee dose projections and the following:

- Time required for public notification
- Wind speed and direction
- Road and weather conditions
- Expected duration of the release

Since all Emergency Response Planning Areas (ERPAs) within the 10-mile emergency planning zone may not be affected, listen for directions for your specific ERPA. The codes for each area can be found in the Emergency Planning Zone section.

## Shelter-in-Place

Staying indoors can protect you from the sun's radiation and can also protect you from man-made radiation that could be involved in a nuclear power plant emergency. If directed to shelter-in-place, do the following:

- Stay inside a structure such as your home or place of business.
- Stay tuned to radio or television stations broadcasting the Emergency Alert System for updates and instructions.
- Do not drive. Unless told to evacuate, you will be safer staying indoors. If you are in a motor vehicle, roll up the windows and close the outside air vents and seek the closest available shelter.
- Avoid using the telephone to prevent overloading the phone lines.
- Keep pets inside the house. If possible, shelter farm animals.
- Close all doors and windows to limit the ways outside air can enter the structure.
- Turn off air conditioners and other ventilation systems that bring air into the house.
- Extinguish fireplaces, allow the smoke to escape through chimney and then close flues.
- Well water is safe unless you are told otherwise.
- If you must go outside, cover your nose and mouth with a cloth to filter the air. Once back inside, take a shower or wash all exposed skin. Also, wash your clothes. Washing yourself and your clothes removes any man-made radioactive material you might have picked up.
- Stay indoors until you receive official notice that it's safe to go outside.

## Evacuation

If an evacuation is necessary, public safety authorities will broadcast an announcement on the Emergency Alert System stations. If asked to evacuate, here's what the public should do:

- Remain calm and stay tuned to the EAS stations for official reports.
- Avoid using the telephone to prevent overloading phone lines.
- Turn off lights and appliances (except refrigerators and freezers) and lock your windows and doors.
- As you leave, tie a white cloth on your front door to let emergency officials know that you have been notified and have evacuated.
- Close the windows and air vents in your car. Do not operate the air conditioner or heater until you have left the emergency area.
- Follow the evacuation routes and any instructions given by emergency personnel along the route. Proceed to the Emergency Reception Center.
- While you are away, local police will protect homes and businesses. Only authorized people would be allowed into the evacuation area.

## Essential Evacuation Items

### Clothing and Bedding

- Two blankets or sleeping bag, pillow and sheet for each person
- 2–3 complete changes of clothes

### Food and Drink

- Bottled water: 1 gallon per person per day for 2–3 days
- Non-perishable food
- Special food if you have a special diet
- Baby formula

### Medical Supplies

- Prescription medications
- First Aid Kit

### Personal Items

- Money (cash, checkbook, credit cards)
- Personal hygiene items:
  - toothbrush and toothpaste
  - soap and haircare products
  - towels and washcloth
  - eye care supplies
  - shaving supplies
- Baby supplies including diapers and favorite toys
- Portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Important personal and financial documents
- Toolbox
- Road maps
- Emergency Planning calendar

### Do Not Take

- Illegal substances
- Alcoholic beverages
- Firearms

## For Children in School or Day Care

All state-licensed schools and day cares within the emergency planning zone are required to have emergency plans. In the event of an emergency during school hours, one or more of the following actions will be taken:

- If county emergency officials decide children would be safer going home immediately, your school's regular early dismissal plan would be used—this includes notifying the public.
- If county emergency officials decide it would be safer to remain indoors, students and school personnel will be sheltered in their school buildings until they can safely return home.
- If the emergency requires evacuation, buses will take students and school personnel to the Reception Center at the New York State Fairgrounds. Students will be registered and closely supervised by school personnel.
- Parents are asked to please not drive to school to pick-up your children.
- Specific instructions in response to the emergency will be made available to local media.

Schools in the emergency planning zone include:

- Mexico Academy and Central Schools
- Oswego City Schools
- Oswego County BOCES
- Trinity Catholic School
- Oswego Community Christian School
- Day care and nursery schools in Mexico, Oswego, Minetto and Scriba.

## People with Special Needs

### Residents of Special Facilities

Hospitals, nursing homes and group homes are all considered special facilities. If advised by county officials that staying indoors is safer, the staff will see that people remain sheltered until advised to do otherwise. If advised to evacuate, individuals in these facilities will be sent to the Reception Center or healthcare facilities outside the emergency planning area.

### Planning for People with Disabilities

In the event of public emergency or natural disaster, some residents may need special attention during evacuation and sheltering. The County Emergency Management office maintains a list of those individuals in need of assistance. Please contact the Oswego County Emergency Management Office at 315-591-9150 or 1-800-962-2792 for additional information.

## Planning for Pets

If you are directed to evacuate, you will want to take your pets with you. Please keep in mind that only pets in carriers will be allowed on public transportation. Pets may be brought to the Emergency Reception Center, but only service animals will be allowed at a Congregate Care Center.

## Taking Care of Livestock or Crops

In an emergency, the agricultural community and home gardeners would get instructions from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets on protection of crops, livestock and produce. These instructions may include the following:

- Place livestock on stored feed, protected water supply and under shelter, if possible; take care of lactating animals first.
- Cover outdoor feed and water containers.
- Wash produce from gardens and remove outer leaves before consuming.

## Instructions to Take Potassium Iodide (KI)

Potassium iodide (KI) is a salt compound consisting of potassium and iodine. Iodine is used by the thyroid gland to produce hormones that help control metabolism. KI has been provided to residents within the emergency planning zone and should be taken only when directed by county officials. KI taken within several hours of exposure to radioactive iodine can block the concentration of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland, thereby reducing one type of radiation exposure. Taking KI is not an alternative to evacuating the area.

## Emergency Reception Center

The Emergency Reception Center that would be used in the event of an evacuation is the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The reception center will be operated by county and social services personnel. If advised to evacuate, members of the public will be asked to go directly to the Fairgrounds for registration and/or radiation monitoring. Families may use the reception center as a meeting point and message center.

### **Directions to Emergency Reception Center**

#### ***From Route 81 South***

Exit at Hiawatha Blvd. Take 690 West and follow signs to New York State Fairgrounds.

#### ***From Route 481 South***

Exit at 9S for Route 81 South. Exit at Hiawatha Blvd. Take 690 West and follow signs to New York State Fairgrounds.

#### ***From Route 48 South and 690 East***

Exit at 690 East and follow signs to New York State Fairgrounds.