

At-A-Glance

Nuclear Power Plants

Nuclear power plants use the heat generated from nuclear fission in a contained environment to convert water to steam, which powers generators to produce electricity. Nuclear power plants operate in most states in the country and produce about 20 percent of the nation's power. Nearly 3 million Americans live within 10 miles of an operating nuclear power plant.



Before a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency...

- Build an Emergency Supply Kit.
- Make a Family Emergency Plan.
- Obtain public emergency information materials from the power company that operates your local nuclear power plant or your local emergency services office. If you live within 10 miles of the power plant, you should receive the materials yearly from the power company or your state or local government.

During a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency...

If an accident at a nuclear power plant were to release radiation in your area, local authorities would activate warning sirens or another approved alert method. They also would instruct you through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on local television and radio stations on how to protect yourself. Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes, and do not do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.

- Minimize your exposure by increasing the distance between you and the source of the radiation. This could be evacuation or remaining indoors to minimize exposure.
- Shield yourself by placing heavy, dense material between you and the radiation source. Go to a basement or other underground area, if possible.
- Stay out of the incident zone. Most radiation loses its strength fairly quickly.

After a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency...

- Act quickly if you have come in to contact with or have been exposed to hazardous radiation.
- Follow decontamination instructions from local authorities. You may be advised to take a thorough shower.
- Seek medical treatment for unusual symptoms, such as nausea, as soon as possible.
- Help a neighbor who may require special assistance - infants, elderly people and people with access and functional needs may require additional assistance. People who care for them or who have large families may need additional assistance in emergency situations.

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Know The Terms

Familiarize yourself with these terms:

- Notification of Unusual Event - A small problem has occurred at the plant. No radiation leak is expected. No action on your part will be necessary.
- Alert - A small problem has occurred, and small amounts of radiation could leak inside the plant. This will not affect you and no action is required.
- Site Area Emergency - Area sirens may be sounded. Listen to your radio or television for safety information.
- General Emergency - Radiation could leak outside the plant and off the plant site. The sirens will sound. Tune to your local radio or television station for reports. Be prepared to follow instructions promptly.

For additional information on lightning, go to www.ready.gov or www.nrc.gov.



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READY ✓
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Every Person. Every Emergency.