

# RADIATION EMERGENCY IN THE PORT OF SOUTHAMPTON

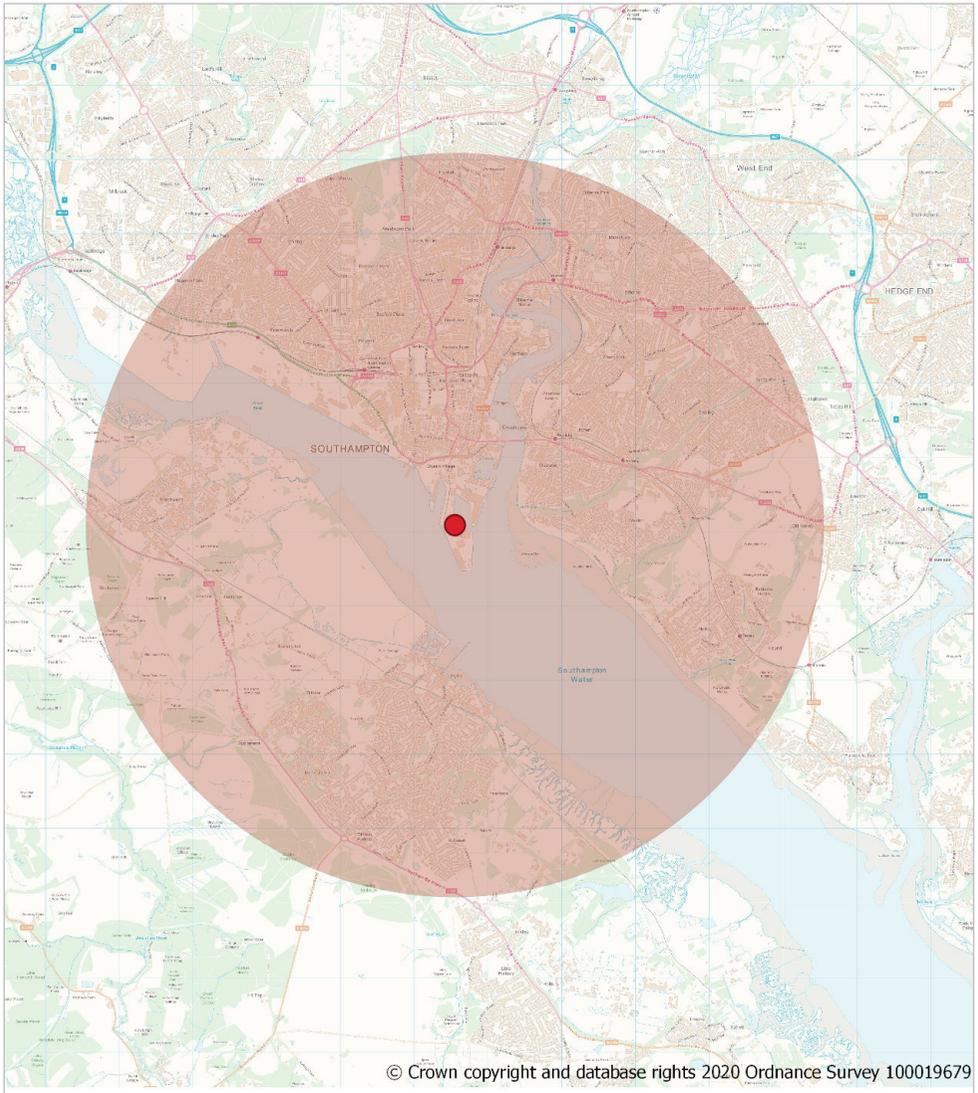
## THE INFORMATION IN THIS GUIDE IS IMPORTANT

This guide tells you what you need to do in the extremely unlikely event of a radiation emergency at Southampton Port.

## Information for people living in the 5km Outline Planning Zone

**OCT 2023 - OCT 2026**

This booklet has been produced by Southampton City Council in cooperation with Eastleigh Borough Council, New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council and the Ministry of Defence



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**We show the area as a circle to make it easier to understand.  
The actual zone goes out to the nearest natural or landscape boundary.**

# The drill in an emergency is simple: **GO IN • STAY IN • TUNE IN**

## What is the Outline Planning Zone?

Over many years the UK has developed, and refined, detailed plans for how the response to a radiation emergency should be managed. By law we provide information to everyone who lives in the Outline Planning Zone (OPZ). You live in this zone. There has never been a radiation emergency in the UK that has required the activation of these plans, but it's important they exist and are reviewed.

The Outline Planning Zone surrounding the Southampton operational berth is 5 kilometres. Outline Planning Zones are always circles around specific sites and defining the zone this way allows those who will have to respond to such an event, such as police, fire and other emergency services, to draft public protection plans ready to be put into operation.

Protective actions for people in the Outline Planning Zone would only be activated if it was determined the risk from the event extended beyond the area for which detailed emergency plans already exist. If the plan for the wider area was activated it would be a decision based on the best available information as opposed to previously developed planning assumptions.

Southampton City Council will provide specific advice for all schools and care homes in the area in the event of an emergency.

**For more information on radiation safety, call the  
Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response Team  
at Southampton City Council on 023 8254 5080.**

# IN AN EMERGENCY

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU LIVE WITHIN 5K OF THE OUTLINE PLANNING

### GO IN

In the highly unlikely event of a radiation emergency the best thing to do is to go indoors and stay there. Don't go outside unless you are told to. Make sure you keep your pets indoors as well. If you have an elderly neighbour, you may want to tell them that there is an emergency.

- Close windows and doors
- Shut down fans, fires and ventilators. In fact, anything that draws in air from outside. These are actions to reduce contamination entering the building/shelter.
- Do not leave the area unless you are told to do so. You will be much safer indoors. If you need to leave the area you will be told and you should follow the instructions given. If you try to leave earlier you may block the roads for emergency services.

### STAY IN

- Don't collect your children from school – they will be looked after there.
- Don't go outside where radiation could be higher, unless told to do so.
- Keep pets indoors to stop them bringing contamination into the house

## ZONE (3.1 MILES) OF BERTH 38 EASTERN DOCKS

### TUNE IN

To local radio or TV, which will be giving out emergency information. The frequencies for the local radio stations are shown on the back cover of this booklet.

#### **Don't use the telephone unless you urgently need help.**

In an emergency the telephone system could become very busy. If you have to make a call, please keep it short.

#### **Stable iodine tablets (SITs)**

**SITs will be made available to those who need them if the information available at the time tells us it is appropriate.**

If advised to take SITs, this should be only when told to do so. Arrangements will be confirmed by radio and TV announcements. It is important you don't take the tablets until you are told to, if they are taken at the wrong time they might not protect you when it is needed.

#### **Stay tuned**

Wait for more information on what to do next.

## What do you mean by an emergency?

The design of nuclear powered warships means that an emergency involving a vessel's reactor is extremely unlikely. However, in extreme circumstances it is possible some of the radioactive material could escape and affect areas down wind of or close to the vessel. There is no possibility of a "nuclear bomb" type of explosion.

As soon as the Royal Navy knows a nuclear powered warship in or near the port has a problem, it will start a well-rehearsed emergency plan that it practices regularly with local authorities, the emergency services, health services, and other key partner agencies. The plan gives you information to keep you safe until the problem has been dealt with.

## Who will be affected?

In the unlikely event of an incident occurring it would probably only affect people living or working very close to or within the port, probably no further than half a kilometre away. Legislation requires people living up to 5 kilometres away to be given prior information about a radiation emergency as provided in this booklet.

## How will I know an emergency has happened?

There will be an announcement on local radio and television and the advice in this leaflet will be repeated or you will be informed by members of the emergency services.

## What happens after the warnings are given?

The local authorities will liaise with the Royal Navy and other agencies to deal with the release of information and, as soon as it is completely safe to go outside again, there will be announcements on local radio and TV, and by loudhailer.

In the days following the incident, health experts will carry out checks on the air, water and soil to make sure it is safe. There will be more information in all news media – including the newspapers – on what further action you need to take, if any.

Remember - the risk of this sort of emergency happening is extremely remote. But being prepared is nevertheless sensible.

## Should we leave the area?

**In the event of an emergency, do not leave your home unless advised to do so – the best thing to do is to STAY IN.**

Evacuated areas will be controlled, so don't worry if you have to leave your home. If a warning is given then the following items should be packed and ready to go:

- Clothing and bedding.
- Medicines or special foods you, family members or pets might need.
- Private documents and special valuables.
- If you have children – baby food, clothing, toys and books.
- If you have pets – leads, baskets/carriers, cages and food.

Ensure fires are out, and that cookers, electrical equipment, other appliances are switched off.

Lock up your house/any other buildings and leave.

## I have friends and relatives who live close to the Eastern Docks what should they do?

People who live within 1.5km will already have detailed public information for that zone about what to do in the event of an emergency.

## What happens to schools?

Schools more than 1.5km from the Eastern Docks will be told about any accident by the council and will look after any pupils whose parents live within the 1.5km zone and who may not be able to collect them. In the event of an emergency the school will look after the children – going to collect your children may expose you and them to radiation. When it is safe for children to leave the building the school will contact you.

## Food and drink

It is unlikely that tap water or any food or drink that you have in your house that is covered and sealed will be affected. As the emergency is dealt with further information will be given out on local radio and TV stations.

Helpful advice will also be given to farmers, fishermen and other food producers.

Information about what to do in the event of a radiation emergency at the operational berth nuclear site is routinely provided to people who live within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone DEPZ (DEPZ is 1.5km from the operational berth). This is available at: [www.southampton.gov.uk/emergencyplanning](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/emergencyplanning)  
Hard copies available on request.



## Hazards from a radiation emergency

Radiation is a form of energy we are exposed to all the time from both natural and man made sources. In some forms it can be harmful to humans and other living things because it can damage cells.

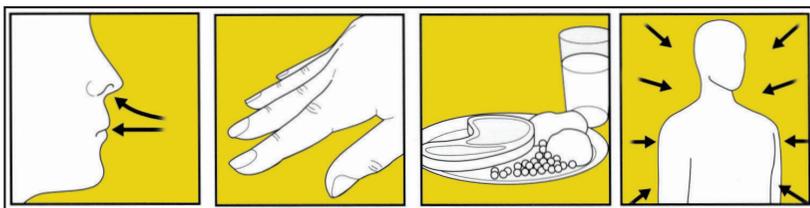
In this type of incident the main concern for the public would be exposure to radioactive iodate particles.

Different types of radiation can cause different effects. Some parts of the body are more sensitive to radiation than other parts of the body.

Studies have shown that the risk of an effect from exposure to radiation increases with the radiation dose.

You could be exposed to radiation by:

1. Inhaling contaminated air and gases.
2. Having contact with contaminated surfaces.
3. Eating or drinking exposed contaminated food or water (ingestion).
4. Direct exposure to radiation.



1. Inhalation

2. Contaminated surfaces

3. Ingestion

4. Direct exposure

## Protective actions

These are the actions you can take to minimise the effects of exposure to radiation and contamination as the result of a nuclear accident.

**Sheltering by staying indoors** is the best way to protect yourself in the short term. Doors and windows should be closed to help stop direct exposure, inhalation and contamination of surfaces inside buildings.

**Stable iodine tablets** can help prevent radioactive iodine from concentrating in the thyroid gland as the body can only absorb a limited amount of iodates. Issue of these tablets is combined with sheltering and/or evacuation. SITs will be made available to those who need them if the information available at the time tells us it is appropriate.

**Evacuation** can help avoid exposure to relatively high doses. It can help protect you from direct exposure and inhalation but should only be carried out if told to do so.

**Food bans** of milk and other foods may be necessary. This will protect you from ingestion.

## Further information

The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations say that this kind of guide has to be updated every three years in the interests of greater public information.

If you would like to find out more about the emergency plan for the area around the port you can find more information about the *Reactor Emergency Plan* at:

[www.southampton.gov.uk/emergencyplanning](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/emergencyplanning)

### You can get more information on radiation from the following websites:

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk) – search = Reppir

[www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk) – search = Radiation emergencies

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) – search = Radiation emergencies

### Further copies of this leaflet can be obtained from:

#### Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response Team

City Depot

First Avenue

Southampton SO15 0LJ

Telephone 023 8254 5080

# IF YOU HEAR AN EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- 1. GO IN** – shut the windows and doors - shut down fans, fires and ventilators.
  - 2. STAY IN** – and await distribution of tablets by the Royal Navy.
  - 3. TUNE IN** – to local radio or TV for information on when to take your tablets.
- Don't use the phone unless you need urgent help.
  - Wait for the all-clear announcement.
  - Watch for long-term safety information in the news and in leaflets.

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## TELEPHONE HELP LINE

**Southampton City Council 023 8083 3005**

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## BROADCAST INFORMATION

**TV:** BBC1, BBC2, ITV Meridian

**Radio:** BBC Radio Solent (96.1 & 103.8 FM)      Heart FM (96.7 FM)  
The Breeze (107.8 FM)      Wave FM (105.2 FM)  
Capital FM (103.2 FM)

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

 @sotoncc  
 @SouthamptonCC  
 @SouthamptonCC

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If you would like more information please contact:

**Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response Team**  
City Depot, First Avenue, Southampton SO15 0LJ  
Telephone 023 8254 5080 (not an emergency phone line).  
Email [emergency.planning@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@southampton.gov.uk)

**This written information is available on request in other formats or languages. Please contact 023 8254 5080 for help.**