



79 Clares Green Road *Radiation Emergency Response* Plan

This document outlines the actions to be taken if the local authority alerts the Home to a radiation emergency

This document approved: _____ Next review date ¹ : _____	Print name and sign
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Initiation

The plan will be initiated by receiving an alert on the telephone line land or via broadcast or social media.

The Home Manager (or deputy if not on site) will take the role of “Emergency Controller” and will be responsible for ensuring that the plan is invoked on alert and that people on site are kept informed and safe.

First Actions

The person receiving the alarm will note the advice given (probably to take shelter) and immediately inform all staff members present.

Staff² will work together to ensure that the everyone on site goes indoors without delay.

Staff will work together to ensure that all doors and windows are shut and that all heating systems or air conditioning systems that might draw air in from outside are switched off.

Local Authority advice³ is that

- You should go indoors immediately and stay there;
- Keep your pets inside;

¹ The plan will be tested prior to the annual review and discussed with the staff and, so far as is reasonable, with the children. New members of staff to be required to read this plan and the prior information.

² Day Shifts: 1 manager, 2 full-time. Night shifts: 1 part-time member who will sleep in the fully equipped staff room and 1 full-time staff member who will be on waking nights.

³ https://www.westberks.gov.uk/media/39234/AWE-Public-Information-booklet-2020/pdf/WBC_REPPIR_booklet_A5_Web_20.pdf?m=637256673376500000

- Close all windows and doors;
- Turn off air conditioning units and put out fires or woodburners;
- Listen to local TV and radio;
- Do not make phone calls by landline or mobile, or use mobile data;
- Stay where you are;
- Make sure that everyone in your home or business understands what to do.

Continuing actions

The Emergency Controller will take control.

They will verify that everyone is indoors and that the building is sealed (doors and windows shut, heating and air conditioning off).

They will take what steps they think appropriate to prepare those present to shelter indoors for up to 48 hours. These will include but not necessarily be limited to:

- Ensure that everyone is made as comfortable as possible given the possibility of a 48 hour lock in;
- Check that resources are available for a 48-hour lock in - confirm that there is sufficient food on site (the assumption is that tap water remains safe for all uses unless told otherwise);
- Check that children are occupied as much as usual as can be managed under the circumstances;
- Confirm that any prescribed medicines required by children, staff or visitors for the next 48 hours are available (if not, risk assess the possibility that a routine medicine will be missed and contact the authorities if a serious problem may arise)⁴
- Supervise home-decontamination of the children, staff and visitors (See Appendix 1) if the advice is given to self-decontaminate in this area

They will detail someone to monitor local radio and council social media for further information about the event and any updated council advice.

They will update staff if the situation changes.

They will anticipate problems that might arise and manage them within the resources available.

The prior information leaflet will be circulated to adults and, as appropriate older children, present to remind them of the Authority's advice⁵.

⁴ Prescribed medicines for the children should be available for two days ahead but this may not be true for staff members and visitors.

⁵ Current version at https://www.westberks.gov.uk/media/39234/AWE-Public-Information-booklet-2023/pdf/20240704-WBC_REPPIR_booklet_A5.pdf but maybe updated.

People are strongly encouraged not to leave the building but if they insist or have to for some good reason, they should be encouraged to wear a covid type of face mask while outside.

Evacuation

The prior information leaflet states that it is very unlikely that an evacuation would be necessary but if that does happen, details of what to do will be given. This advice will be combined with the Home's generic evacuation plan (Benneton Care Homes, Emergency Evacuation Plan) to ensure the safety of children, staff and visitors.

End of event and recovery

The Council, working with AWE and the Emergency Services will determine when to rescind the shelter advice and what, if any advice, to give with regard to recovery.

When this message is received, the Home will follow any advice and return to normal with the senior staff member present making the initial arrangements.

Summary of prior information

From <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/awe#radiation%20emergency>

What to do in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency at an AWE site

If you get a call or find out that there is a radiation emergency about AWE, then follow the steps below:

- **go in** - go indoors and follow the advice below
- **stay in** - close and stay away from all windows and doors - damp down or put out fires and turn off any fans that could draw air from outside
- **tune in** - tune in to local radio and TV - advice and updates will also be given on news websites and social media
- **don't use your phone** - don't use your landline or mobile unless there is a separate emergency - this could overload the system and should be left clear for the emergency services
- **don't leave the area** - don't leave the area unless told to do so by the emergency services - you will be much safer indoors

To find out more information about what you should do if there is a radiation emergency at AWE Aldermaston or Burghfield, please see the instructions and advice in the REPPiR Public Information Booklet.

Local Radio Stations

Local radio and TV stations to tune	
Heart Berkshire	97.0, (Reading) and 102.9 MHz (Basingstoke and Whitechurch) MHz. DAB: 12D (Reading and Basingstoke) Broadcast area: Berkshire and north Hampshire
BBC Radio Berkshire	Frequency: 94.6 MHz, 95.4 MHz, 104.1 MHz, 104.4 MHz; DAB: 12D; Freeview: 719 Broadcast area: Berkshire, northern Hampshire, parts of Buckinghamshire and parts of southern Oxfordshire
Greatest Hits Radio Berkshire & North Hampshire	107.6 MHz FM
The Breeze (Newbury)	105.6 and 107.4 MHz FM
BBC Radio Solent (Hampshire)	96.1 and 103.8 MHz FM
The Breeze (Reading)	107 MHz FM
BBC South	
ITV Meridian	

Appendix 1 – Self decontamination

The Government tells us that⁶

“If you were near to where the radiation emergency happened and were outside at the time, your clothes, skin and hair might have been contaminated with radioactive materials. The emergency services will provide information on the locations where this applies via channels such as the radio, television, internet and social media.

Removing this contamination will help to protect your health by reducing your radiation exposure. It will also help to prevent the contamination of the building that you are sheltering in, therefore reducing exposure of anyone else in the building. Contamination with radioactive material is not something that you can see, so it is important that, if you are advised to self-decontaminate, you do this as soon as possible, even if you think you are clean.

This self-decontamination should take place where you have taken shelter or, if you have already left the affected area, where you are located when you find out about the radiation emergency.

Studies show that simply taking off your outer clothing can remove around 90% of the contamination.

Do not use conditioner when washing your hair, as this can bind contamination to hair. Simple soaps or mild shampoos are effective for removing contamination.

Follow these [step-by-step instructions on how to remove your clothing and decontaminate yourself safely](#).

Step 1: Go inside and remove your outer layers of clothing

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radiation-emergencies-information-for-the-public/what-to-do-in-a-radiation-emergency#decontamination>

1. Get inside a building as soon as possible.
2. Do not move around too much and limit your contact with other people until you've decontaminated yourself.
3. If a clean face mask or face covering is immediately available, put it on.
4. Take off your outer layer of clothes and shoes. Cut off clothing where necessary to avoid removing anything over your head.
5. Avoid touching the outside of your clothing with your skin.
6. Put your clothing and face covering in a plastic bag or other sealable container, seal it and place it away from people.

Step 2: Wash yourself

Mains water (water in the shower or taps) is safe to use. Shower if you can.

If you can shower:

7. Wash your body, face and hair using soap and shampoo. Use warm water.
8. Do not use conditioner as it may fix contaminants to your hair.
9. Keep your mouth and eyes closed when washing your hair and face.
10. Do not scrub your skin or wounds. You can use a sponge or a wash cloth. If you use a sponge or a wash cloth, dispose of it in a sealed bag and place it away from people.

If you cannot shower:

11. Wash your hands, face, hair and other exposed body parts at a sink or tap.
12. Use soap and plenty of water. Do not use conditioner as it may fix contaminants to your hair.
13. Keep your mouth and eyes closed when washing your hair and face.

If you cannot use a sink or tap:

14. Use a moist wipe, clean wet cloth or damp paper towel to wipe the parts of your body that were uncovered.
15. Pay special attention to your hands and face. Gently wipe your eyelids and around your mouth, moving outwards and away from your nose and mouth. Blow your nose. Do not scrub your skin or wounds.
16. Place any waste materials in a plastic bag or other sealable container, seal it and place it away from people.

Step 3: Put on clean clothes

17. Put on clean clothes that have been stored indoors.
18. Do not put contaminated clothes back on.

Step 4: Helping others and pets

19. Wear waterproof gloves and a face mask if possible.
20. Keep cuts and scrapes covered to keep radioactive material away from open wounds.

21. Put any waste from cleaning other people or pets in a plastic bag or other sealable container. Seal the bag or container and place it away from people.
22. Rewash your hands, face and parts of your body that were uncovered.

Appendix 2 – Ready kit

The Care Home Manager is responsible for ensuring that the land line phone is in working order and that the home has sufficient food and other provisions to manage for 48 hours without anybody going in or out.

It is assumed that the Home's office is available with contact lists etc.

Item	Present
Food for at least two days	
A battery radio (with spare batteries) or a wind-up radio,	
Two wind-up torches,	
A range of mobile phone chargers,	
A quantity of black bin bags,	
Several rolls of blue wipe paper or equivalent,	
Copies of the Public information leaflet,	
Tissues & sealable plastic bags for used tissues. Marker pen to label bags. (If nose blows are asked for).	
Covid-style face masks (FFP2 NR/N95) (x20)	