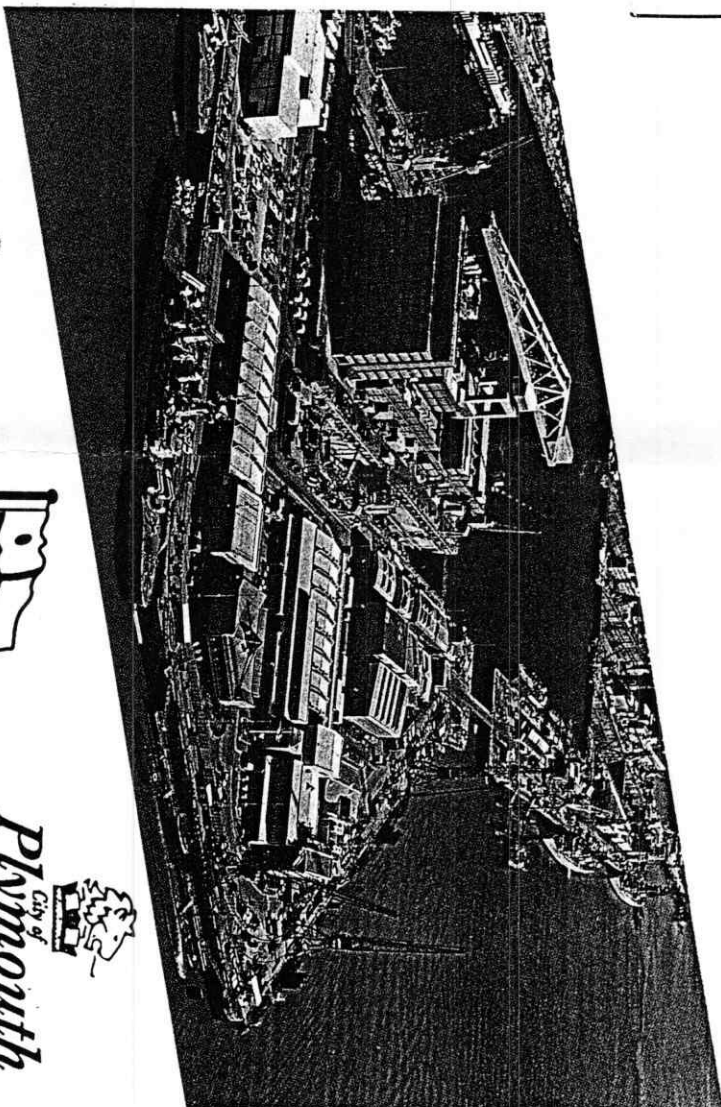


WHAT TO DO IN A NUCLEAR EMERGENCY



HM Naval Base Devonport
Information for local residents



Your First Actions

For use in the event of a Nuclear Emergency at HM Naval Base Devonport.

If you hear the Dockyard siren give the "Emergency" signal (a 10 seconds on 10 seconds off wailing note), or if you receive warning of a nuclear emergency from the Police, remain calm and follow this advice.

1	GO INDOORS AND STAY THERE	
2	CLOSE DOORS AND WINDOWS	
3	PUT OUT OR DAMP DOWN FIRES AND BOILERS	
4	DO NOT USE TELEPHONE	
5	LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO OR TV	
6	DO NOT LEAVE THE AREA	

(PTO)

CARADON
DISTRICT COUNCIL



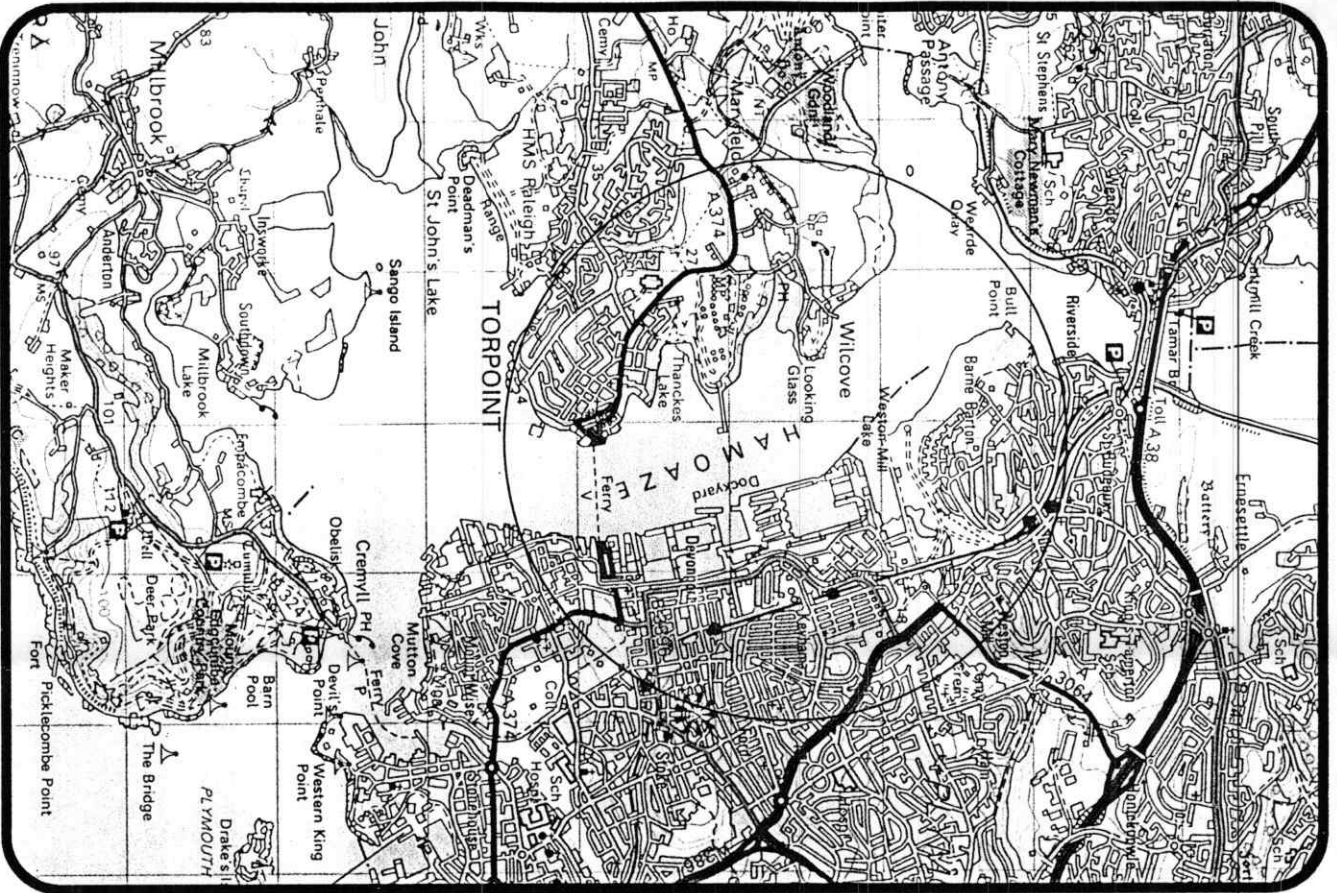
Plymouth

July 1993

*This guide has
been produced by
the Ministry of Defence in
consultation with your local council*

Introduction

1. This guide has been prepared by the Ministry of Defence in the interests of public information. It is addressed in particular to members of the public who reside in the areas of Plymouth City and Caradon near to the submarine berths in Devonport. The guide complies with the requirements of the Public Information for Radiation Emergency Regulations 1992 and has been produced in consultation with the civil authorities in your area with responsibility for public safety.
2. Nuclear powered submarines of the Royal Navy are designed and operated to stringent standards of safety and have been operated without any form of nuclear accident for over 30 years. Whilst an accident to a submarine nuclear reactor is, by design, an extremely unlikely event, it is nevertheless Ministry of Defence policy that emergency procedures for the protection of the public should be available and exercised.
3. A detailed contingency plan for the area round the Devonport Naval Base - the Devonport Public Safety Scheme (DEVPUBSAFE) has been developed in conjunction with your local authorities. This plan (which is a public document and available in your local library) gives full details of the measures required to protect you in the extremely unlikely event of a submarine reactor accident happening at HMNB Devonport.
4. The possibility of an accident requiring people to take protective action beyond the Automatic Countermasures Zone, which extends 550 metres from the submarine berths, is very remote, but in accordance with National Policy DEVPUBSAFE covers this possibility. DEVPUBSAFE includes a plan for the distribution of Potassium Iodate Tablets up to 2km from the Submarine Berths. In the light of the regulations this leaflet is being supplied to members of the public whose home or regular place of work lies within or just outside that distance from the Naval Base (as shown in the map on Page 1 of this leaflet).
5. This guide is intended to provide individual members of the public with information on what action they may be advised to take in the extremely unlikely event of a reactor accident in the Devonport Naval Base. You may wish to keep it for ease of reference. You will also find enclosed some leaflets issued by the National Radiological Protection Board which give a general explanation of radiation and its effects and of national emergency arrangements and a card giving a brief guide to the emergency actions.
5. It is emphasised that the guide is produced in the interests of greater public information and not because of any increased risk from submarine operations. It is also emphasised that there is no risk of atomic bomb type explosion from nuclear reactors - the design of the reactor makes this impossible.



What Could Happen in a Nuclear Submarine Accident

In the event of an accident involving a nuclear submarine reactor, people who are very close to the submarine could be affected by gamma rays which are similar to X-rays. All radioactive material should be contained within the submarine hull but in some circumstances it is possible that such material could escape and affect areas close to the submarine and in downwind areas.

Specialist monitoring teams will detect any radiation or radioactive contamination and the police will, if necessary, set in motion measures to protect the public, which might include shelter or evacuation, food and drink restrictions or distribution of Potassium Iodate Tablets.

What You May Need To Do

If you are advised by the police of a nuclear emergency, or hear the Dockyard siren sound the alarm, follow this advice promptly but without rushing:

1. Shelter

In an emergency, the best thing to do is to go indoors. Do not go outside, where levels of radiation could be higher, unless told to do so by the police, for example to collect Potassium Iodate Tablets (see 5).

By taking care to ensure that all doors and windows are closed you will minimise the risk of contamination.

Switch off fans, close ventilators, and put out or damp down open fires or other heating appliances drawing air from outside, to prevent any possible contamination entering the building.

Do not attempt to collect children from school. Their teachers and the Police will ensure that they are looked after.

Keep pets indoors, to prevent them from bringing possible contamination into the house.

2. Do NOT use the Telephone (unless you need urgent help)

In such an emergency the telephone system may be overloaded. If you must make a call, please be brief.

3. Listen to your local Radio or Television

During an incident, emergency information and advice will be broadcast on your local radio and TV (see Page 6 for details of stations and frequencies).

4. Do NOT leave the Area

You will be much safer indoors. Do not leave the area unless told to do so by the Police, in which case you should follow the advice given on page 5. If you try to leave earlier you may block the roads for emergency services.

5. Take Potassium Iodate Tablets

At some time during the emergency the Health Authority may advise you to take Potassium Iodate Tablets. Stocks of the tablets are held locally and will be issued to people who need them. These tablets have the beneficial effect of helping the body to reject radioactive iodine which would be a constituent of any reactor accident contamination. The tablets are very small and the easiest way to take them is with a drink of some sort. They are unlikely to produce any side effects and will not interfere with any other medications. Detailed instructions will be given to you on a leaflet accompanying the tablets.

6. Food & Drink

Food and drink in your house and tap water supplies are most unlikely to be affected. Government agencies will provide advice on consumption of other foodstuffs such as freshly grown vegetables. This advice will be broadcast on your local radio and television. Advice will also be given to farmers, fishermen and other producers.

7. What about Evacuation ?

In the event of an accident Sheltering Indoors, as described in Section 1. above, is the right action to take immediately, unless you are specifically advised to the contrary.

It is most unlikely that in the event of an accident it will be necessary to evacuate people from their homes. However, should evacuation become necessary the Police will be responsible for contacting the residents concerned.

Evacuees will be advised to use their own transport wherever possible, but transport will be arranged by the Police where necessary. The Dangers arising from panic evacuation are far greater than the possible radiation hazards.

The Local Authorities will make arrangements for feeding and accommodating all persons from the affected area, but families who may wish to stay with friends or relatives will obviously be free to do so. Special arrangements will be made by the Police and District Health Authority for the care of the aged, sick and disabled. Arrangements will also be made to ensure that family members not present at the time of evacuation eg. children at school, etc are reunited with their families. You should take your pets with you; arrangements will be made for them at the evacuation centre.

8. Entry to Evacuation Sectors

Entry to any evacuation sectors during the emergency will normally be restricted to persons having compelling reasons for doing so. Arrangements could be made, for example, for essential feeding of livestock.

9. End of the Emergency

As the emergency eases, there may well be some adjustments to these countermeasures until, when the emergency is over, the public will be advised that special precautions are no longer required.

*PI. Tablets - via library used
pre-distribution*

Public Information

1. Warning of Nuclear Accident

If there is a nuclear accident on a submarine in the Dockyard the Dockyard siren will give the "emergency" signal by sounding an interrupted (10 seconds on/10 seconds off) *wailing note*.

2. Broadcast Information

Information on the progress of the accident response and instructions on action to be taken will be given on Local Radio and TV:-

TV - BBC1 and Westcountry TV
Radio - Plymouth Sound 97MHz VHF or 1152KHz (261m)AM
BBC Radio Devon 103.4MHz VHF or 855KHz (351m)AM
BBC Radio Cornwall 95.2MHz or 657KHz (457m)AM

3. Helplines

In the event of a nuclear emergency you can ask for help/information by telephoning the Public Information Centre.

For Plymouth at the
Plymouth Civic Centre
Plymouth 668000

For Caradon at the
Environmental Health Department,
Luxstowe House Liskeard
Liskeard 343818

Information about:

DML personnel
Plymouth 605665/553740

MoD or RN personnel
Telephone Plymouth 553740

Further telephone numbers will be given out when the Police Information Bureau is formed.

Please only use these numbers when you have an urgent need for help or information.