

- ⊕ Remove animals from pasture and provide feed from a protected source. This could be feed you covered earlier, protected silage, or hay from the interior of the stack.



- ⊕ Do not move or harvest beehives which are in affected areas. They will be sampled and tested for possible contamination by officials.

- ⊕ Do not attempt to market or transport animals or animal products until official announcement has been made that your location is free of contamination.

Clearance of an area or crop will be based on official sampling and laboratory results.

## How do I protect my fruits and vegetables?

- ⊕ Stop all harvesting of crops. Fruits and vegetables picked when the emergency is declared should be removed from the field and placed in an enclosed storage area.

- ⊕ Do not process or distribute fruits or vegetables until they have been officially declared free of contamination.

- ⊕ Wash, scrub, or peel fresh fruits and vegetables obtained from the store. Do not eat fruits or vegetables from your garden until your location has been officially declared free of contamination.



Clearance of an area or crop will be based on official sampling and laboratory reports.

Listen to your local radio station for further information.

## Will I be compensated for economic loss?

A radiological emergency may lead to additional living expenses, loss of farm or business income, or physical or property damages. The federal government requires that nuclear facilities compensate the public for economic loss caused by a radiological accident.



If there is an emergency, announcements would be made on types of assistance programs that would be available and procedures for obtaining assistance or filing a claim for damages or loss.

Additional information regarding a radiological emergency is available for farmers, people within 10 miles of a nuclear facility, and Spanish-speaking residents. Please contact the office listed below for more information on how you and your family can be better prepared for any type of emergency.

## Your local emergency management office:

This brochure was prepared by:

*U.S. Department of Energy—Richland, Energy Northwest, Washington State Departments of Agriculture and Health, Washington State Emergency Management (a division of the Washington Military Department) and your local emergency management office.*

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*Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Contact the WSDA Receptionist at (360) 902-1976 or TTY Relay (800) 833-6388.*

# Preparing Yourself for a Nuclear Facility Emergency in Washington State

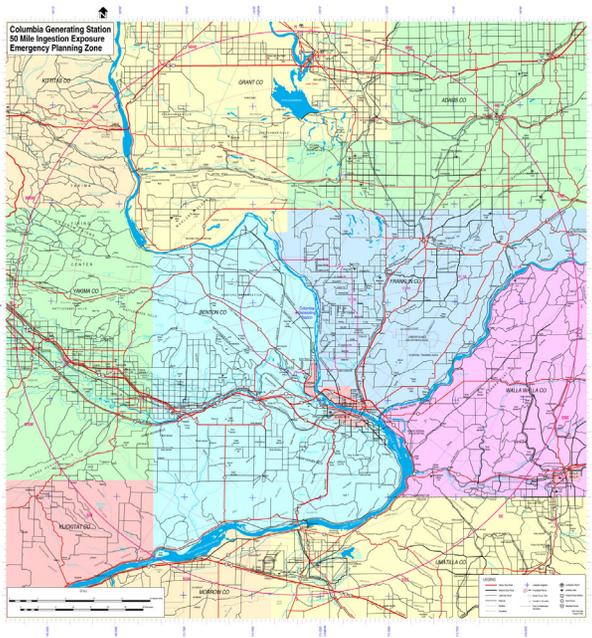


## Why should I read this?

*This leaflet has been prepared for the general public to provide guidance to you in the event of a radiological emergency at nuclear facilities within fifty miles of your home. It explains those actions that may be necessary for you to take to protect yourself, your family, your home garden and your pets or animals.*



**Washington**  
State Department of  
**Agriculture**



plans for those in the Ingestion EPZ include ways to protect them from consuming contaminated food. Examples of food or drink that can become contaminated with radiation are milk, fresh fruits, vegetables, processed products and open water sources.

## What is radiation?

Radiation, a form of radiant energy, is invisible, tasteless and odorless. We are constantly exposed to sources of radiation. Radiation comes from sunlight, water, soil and the materials we use to build our homes. Radiation also comes from sources such as medical and dental x-rays, color television sets and smoke detectors.



If there is an emergency at a nuclear facility where the release of radioactive material might be harmful to the public, county and state officials would work with facility operators to make sure the public and the environment are safe.

## What if an emergency occurs?

In the event of a radiological emergency at a nuclear facility, state and county emergency response organizations would identify affected areas and suggest protective actions for those who live and work within the affected area. Several methods would be used to warn the public. Within the **Plume EPZ**, affected residents would be notified by:

- ⊕ tone alert radios;
- ⊕ telephone notification;
- ⊕ SMS (text messages);
- ⊕ sirens; or
- ⊕ Emergency Alert System messages.

Outside the Plume EPZ, the affected public would be informed primarily by local radio stations.

During and following the emergency, state and county officials would provide information to the media on a regular basis. This information would contain the latest status on the emergency and actions that you can take to protect your family and your property. Stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need.

## What do I need to know to be prepared for an emergency?

In the event of a release of radioactive material that could result in the contamination of foods, food products, or water, state and local officials would advise the public on actions they should take to prevent or minimize the development of any contamination hazard from food.

*If a radiological emergency occurs affecting the area in which you live, do not eat or sell any fresh food products or drink from open water sources until emergency officials have declared it is safe to do so. State and local governments will take action to prevent the consumption of contaminated products.*

*Protecting yourself and your family is the primary concern. If time allows, any of the following actions would help protect your property and the food supply.*

## How am I being protected?

Nuclear facilities are designed to operate safely. However, it is possible that an accident could be serious enough to result in a release of radioactive materials. An accidental release of radiation into the atmosphere has the potential to affect you and your family. Should there be an emergency, the information in this guide and the instructions local and state officials will communicate to you on radio and television stations will help minimize the effects a radiological emergency could have on you and your family.

Two emergency planning zones (EPZs) have been established as a basis for preparing to protect the public:

- ⊕ The **Plume EPZ**, for residents living up to ten miles from a nuclear facility. Plans for this zone include ways to protect people from direct exposure to radiation in the event of a release of radioactive material.
- ⊕ The **Ingestion EPZ**, for persons located up to fifty miles from a nuclear facility. Emergency

## How do I protect my animals and animal products?

- ⊕ As much as practical, provide shelter for all types of animals, including pets.
- ⊕ Cover feed and open water sources, such as water troughs.
- ⊕ Do not use fresh milk from your dairy animals, eggs from your poultry, or slaughter any animals unless official clearance of your location has been announced. Milk processed and offered for sale before the emergency is considered unaffected by the radiological emergency.

