

Child Care Provider Planning Guidance for an incident at a Nuclear Generating Plant

Emergency Planning

In Minnesota, every child care facility is required to have written policies that cover emergencies, accidents and injuries. If your day care is located within the 10-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) of a nuclear power generating plant, your policies should also include a plan for what to do in case of an emergency at the plant.

Items to consider:

- Enroll in your county's emergency notification system to receive alerts affecting your area.
- Keep parent and guardian emergency contact information up to date.
- Maintain an up-to-date phone list and/or email distribution list.
- Establish an evacuation plan to a location outside of the 10-mile (EPZ).
- Your evacuation plan should include how you will transport your children to your alternate location.
- Make sure parents and guardians are familiar with the emergency plan, including the alternate location, and what they need to do to pick up their children.
- Identify alternate routes to your evacuation point in case road closures are put into effect.
- If you have potassium iodide (KI) tablets available at your site, ensure parents and guardians have agreed to let you administer it to their child.

Emergency Classification Levels

There are four emergency classification levels (ECLs) used by all nuclear generating plants in the United States. State and local officials use these ECLs to plan their emergency response.

Understanding these ECLs will help you determine what actions are needed to keep you and your children safe.

The classification levels drive the response actions taken based on the level of severity. An incident at a nuclear generating plant could begin at any of these classification levels.

Notification of an Unusual Event (NUE)

An NUE classification level is a condition that presents no threat to public safety. No official notifications will occur, and no emergency response is initiated.

Alert

Although there is no immediate threat to public safety during an Alert classification level, local and state agencies will begin preparing for a response in case the situation escalates.

- If notified, you should review your emergency plan and prepare to close your facility should the situation escalate.
- Monitor news media (TV and radio) for additional emergency information.

Site Area Emergency (SAE)

At the SAE classification level, although there is no immediate risk or danger to the public, precautionary protective measures should be implemented.

- When an SAE is declared, you should contact parents and guardians to come and get their children.
- Follow your emergency plan, just as you would for any other emergency closing.
- You should prepare to evacuate or shelter.
- If you have a supply of KI, locate it and review the directions, but DO NOT administer KI at this time. (Administering KI is authorized by the Minnesota Department of Health at a general emergency when the public is told to evacuate or shelter in place.)

General Emergency (GE)

At the GE classification level, conditions at the plant have escalated so that they threaten public safety. There will be a full activation of the Emergency Alert System, including the sounding of warning sirens, NOAA weather radio alerts, emergency messaging to newer cell phones and public safety announcements via TV and radio.

- When you hear warning sirens, turn on your TV or radio and listen for further instructions.
- Notify parents and guardians to pick up their children within a reasonable timeframe or meet you at your alternate location.
- In the event of an evacuation order, close your facility and go to your alternate location outside of the 10-mile EPZ.
- If you have KI readily available, administer it now. Do not delay evacuating in order to locate KI or other non-essential items.
- If you are unable to evacuate, contact your county emergency operations center.
- For more detailed evacuation instructions, consult the planning guide provided by Xcel Energy or go to their website.

Keep in mind that reception centers are designed for the general public and won't have dedicated services or supplies for day care children.

Other useful resources for preparing your nuclear generating plant emergency plans include:

- Xcel Energy's website:
https://www.xcelenergy.com/energy_portfolio/electricity/nuclear
- Dakota County emergency notification enrollment: <https://www.mn-dcc.org/>
- Goodhue County emergency notification enrollment:
<http://www.co.goodhue.mn.us/878/CodeRED>
- Sherburne County emergency notification enrollment:
<https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/668/CodeRED-Emergency-Notices>
- Wright County emergency notification enrollment:
<https://www.co.wright.mn.us/list.aspx>
- FEMA online training IS-36 Multi Hazard Planning for Childcare:
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-36>
- The Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management Radiological Emergency Preparedness website:
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/Pages/default.aspx>