

# HOW TO BE PREPARED AT HOME

## Nuclear Emergencies



The likelihood of a nuclear or radiological incident is remote because of the stringent controls in place for the movement and use of radioactive materials. All levels of government and the operators of nuclear facilities have emergency plans that are ready to be implemented at a moment's notice.

A nuclear emergency could be declared if there is an accident or an intentional release (or threat of intentional release) of potentially harmful radioactive materials. In either situation, exposure to radiation can cause health risks.

Officials will quickly determine the degree of risk from radiation and take immediate measures to limit the dangers. Depending on the incident and health risks, you could be visited by emergency services personnel who would advise you about what to do.

In chemical, biological or nuclear emergencies, it is important to listen to officials for possible evacuation instructions.

### During a nuclear emergency:

You may be told to minimize the amount of outside air entering your home. If so, immediately close doors and windows, then turn off air exchangers and heat-recovery units. Find your emergency kit, turn off appliances and stay indoors until advised otherwise. If you were outside around the time of a nuclear emergency, remove your clothes as soon as possible and seal them in a plastic bag. Rinse your hair and body in the shower and then put on clean clothes from a closed drawer or closet.



### People who live or work within 10 km of a nuclear reactor should know what to do if there's an accident:

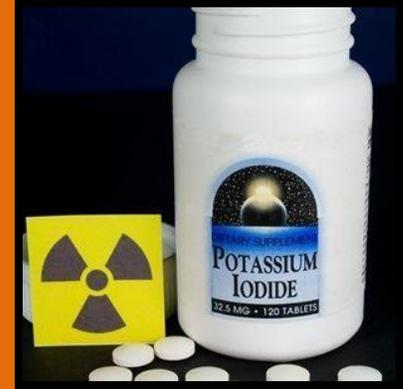
- Go inside and turn on your radio, TV or computer
- Listen to media for instructions from the provincial government
- Follow the directions provided by the provincial government

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### Have your potassium iodide (KI) pills nearby.

- One way to protect yourself from radioactive iodine is to take a potassium iodide (KI) pill.
- KI is only to be taken when instructed to do so by provincial authorities.
- Further Information on KI is available from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care: Potassium Iodide Tablets (KI) Fact Sheet.



### Emergency Bulletins will be issued by Ontario through local radio and television stations, and social media. These bulletins will:

- Identify that a concern exists and where it's occurring
- Advise on precautionary and protective measures
- Announce when the emergency is over

### If there is a concern, you may be asked to:

- Stay indoors
- Close all windows and doors
- Turn off heating or air conditioning to avoid bringing potentially contaminated air indoors
- Be ready to leave your home if the situation changes

### If you're told to leave your home:

- Close and lock windows and doors
- Follow instructions and routes given by officials
- Bring with you:
  - important documents and identification;
  - sufficient clothing, medication, canned or dried food, water, cash;
  - specialty items — baby needs, medical equipment;
  - pets, food, carriers, leashes, vaccination forms.

Normally people are evacuated from an area well before radiation is released into the atmosphere – so radioactive contamination is very unlikely.

