

Magnox Harwell Off Site Emergency Plan.

Oxfordshire County Council and the Emergency Services have a statutory duty laid down by Central Government to plan and prepare for emergency situations, in the highly unlikely event of a radiation emergency.

Harwell was established in 1946 as Britain's first Atomic Energy Research Establishment. The site accommodated five research reactors of various types. Harwell also had a number of other nuclear research facilities, together with plutonium handling facilities, radioactive laboratories, nuclear waste treatment and storage facilities.

Decommissioning at Harwell is well underway two of the reactors have been completely removed, and the fuel has been removed from the remaining three which are now in decommissioning. More than 100 other facilities have been removed from the site and others are being decommissioned. Historic wastes are being retrieved from their existing storage locations and repackaged for longer-term storage - and eventual disposal. It is expected that decommissioning will be completed by 2025.

These statutory duties were recently updated with the amendment and reissue of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPiR) 2019 which reduced the thresholds in which the requirement for an off-site emergency plan is required.

Magnox Ltd Harwell, Under Regulation 4 of REPPiR 2019, have concluded that there is no potential for a radiation emergency there is **no** legislative requirement for Oxford County Council as the Lead Local Authority to produce any offsite Emergency Arrangements for the Magnox Harwell site.

However as recognised at the Magnox Ltd Harwell External Agencies Liaison Group meeting on the 10 December 2019, maintaining similar arrangements to those required by a 1km Outline Planning Zone would be proportionate and good practice due to the close proximity of large numbers of members of the public to the site, the nature of any hazards which may evolve during decommissioning and activities not in the scope of REPPiR.

The below safety information is to be used in the highly unlikely event of a Radiation Emergency at Magnox Harwell, where a release of radioactive material could affect members of the public outside the perimeter of the site and within the 1km Outline Planning Zone.

Public Information in the event of a Radiation Emergency at Magnox Harwell

The procedure for an off-site emergency is simple:

- **Go in**
- **Stay in**
- **Tune in**

Information will be broadcast on:

Radio: BBC Radio Oxford FM 95.2, Heart FM 102.6 and Jack FM 106.4, Oxfordshire County Council web site www.oxfordshire.gov.uk along with Twitter and Facebook pages.

What do you mean by an emergency? In some extremely rare circumstances, it is possible that radioactive material could be released following a radiation emergency on site.

How do I know if I will be affected? it would probably only affect people living or working very close to or within Magnox Harwell Site.

How will I know an emergency has happened? There will be an announcement on local radio stations, Facebook and Twitter pages of the County Council and Emergency services.

What happens after the warnings are given? The local authorities will liaise with Magnox Harwell and other agencies to deal with the release of information and, as soon as it is completely safe to go outside again, there will be announcements on local radio stations, Twitter, and Facebook.

Will we be evacuated? no there would be no need for an evacuation, unless Emergency services deem it necessary depending on the incident.

Food and drink? tap water and any food or drink that you have in your house will be not be affected.

In the event of an off-site emergency, do not leave your home unless advised to do so - the best thing to do is stay indoors.

For further information please contact us.
emergencyplanning@oxfordshire.gov.uk

A public version of the Magnox Harwell Off site Emergency Plan Is available on request from Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit