

What is the chance of a radiological emergency?

The chance of an emergency occurring is very low because of the safety and security systems used at the ANSTO site.

What arrangements are in place, just in case?

The NSW Government has adopted a conservative approach to a radiological emergency. In addition to regular liaison, training and exercises, several specific plans for dealing with a radiological emergency have been drawn-up. They include an evacuation plan for the community within 3 kilometres of the reactor: **The Lucas Heights Emergency Evacuation Sub Plan.**

All relevant agencies have a copy of the evacuation plan, as do all identified schools and day care centres in the vicinity. Public copies are also available online at www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

What kind of nuclear reactor facilities are at Lucas Heights?

The ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights is used for research and medical isotope production. There are no nuclear power reactors at Lucas Heights. Research reactors are much smaller than power reactors. If there were a radiological emergency at Lucas Heights, the off-site effects would be far less than the few historical reactor-based incidents that have occurred elsewhere.

What is radiation?

Radiation is energy that travels in the form of waves (Gamma) or high-speed particles (Alpha and Beta). There are many sources of radiation. Some occur naturally and some are man-made.

Naturally occurring radiation includes the Sun, minerals in the earth, gases in the air and elements in the food we eat. Even our bodies give off small amounts of radiation.

Man-made sources include medical and industrial X-rays, nuclear medicine, medical diagnostics, some industrial gauges and building materials in our houses. Even smoke detectors and lantern mantles have some radioactive material in them.

Is radiation dangerous?

It can be. However, the level of danger depends on issues like the amount, type, intensity and duration of exposure.

The young are more susceptible than the majority of adults. While radiation does present a hazard to be managed, it is important to note that radiation is very helpful to our society with some uses providing vital life saving functions such as X-rays, medical diagnostics and treatments.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IN THE EVENT OF A RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY AT THE ANSTO FACILITY IN LUCAS HEIGHTS?

A radiological emergency is an incident involving an uncontrolled release of radioactive material into the environment that exceeds a defined level of risk to the surrounding community. This brochure gives information for residents within 3 kilometres of the ANSTO site.

In the event of a radiological emergency at ANSTO, follow the **CALM** procedure:

C Close all doors, windows, turn off air conditioning, stay indoors and don't forget to take your pets inside with you.

A Await further information from emergency services by listening to radio or television stations and follow any official instructions.

L Locate a change of clothes, identification and any vital medication, in case you are advised to evacuate.

M Move to your allocated evacuation centre, if and when advised by emergency services personnel or official announcement. If you drive, turn off your air conditioning and ensure vents and windows are closed. Drive carefully and remain calm.

DO NOT call 000 unless you have an immediate life-threatening emergency.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IN THE EVENT OF A RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY AT THE ANSTO FACILITY IN LUCAS HEIGHTS?

What will happen if there is a radiological emergency at the facility?

Emergency services will respond as they would to any emergency. They are very familiar with the ANSTO site because of regular liaison, training, education and exercises. The NSW Government also has special arrangements in place for responding to a radiological emergency involving off-site consequences.

How will I be told if there is a radiological emergency?

Emergency services will coordinate the notification process through radio and television media including your local community radio station (Radio 2SSR 99.7 FM). If there is a need to evacuate, you will be told at the time. Notifications will include the location of the evacuation centre to which you should go. Identifiable emergency services personnel will be circulating in the area and may come to your house.

Who makes the decision to evacuate?

Senior emergency services officials at state-level will make the decision to evacuate based on prompt environmental monitoring and in the best interests of the community.

Can I use my own transport to evacuate?

Yes! Using your own vehicle will help you quickly leave the area. Please, assist neighbours who may not have their own transport. Remember to drive carefully and courteously.

What if I don't have my own transport?

Special buses will be allocated to service normal bus routes to pick up those without their own transport.

What if I am infirm or mobility impaired?

If you are infirm or mobility impaired **and you are not able to get assistance from your neighbours or your support network**, remain indoors and call 000 for assistance.

What if my children are at school or child care?

Schools and day care centres will be given the highest priority. There are arrangements to notify and, if necessary, evacuate schools and child care centres to special evacuation areas. **DO NOT** collect your children unless told to do so by emergency services.

In the unlikely event of an evacuation, a special hotline number will be set up for you to obtain information on your child's location.

Can I take my companion animals to an evacuation centre?

Yes! You may take your pets with you to your evacuation centre. They should have identification tags and you must have them leashed or restrained in an appropriate carry box or cage.

What if I need some medical assistance?

NSW Health personnel will be at evacuation centres to monitor and treat you, if required.

What can I do to be prepared?

Ask yourself these basic questions. They apply to any potential emergency, not just a radiological one:

- Do I know about and understand the hazards/risks in my area?
- Do I know what to do to protect myself and my family, animals and property in an emergency?
- Do I have an emergency kit and a personal/family emergency plan?
- Am I prepared for an evacuation?
- Have I made arrangements with family/friends, who live outside the area, for temporary accommodation or to act as a central point of contact with other family/friends?
- Do I know my neighbours and what help might they need in an emergency?

If you have answered 'No' to any of these questions, visit: www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

The web site also has other information on emergency management arrangements in New South Wales.



For further information on radiation or ANSTO, visit www.arpansa.gov.au or www.ansto.gov.au