

Backford North Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD)

Background Information

Backford North Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD) stores and distributes aviation kerosene. Aviation kerosene has the potential to be hazardous; hence, the site is subject to the COMAH Regulations 2015.

The COMAH Regulations 2015 require us to submit a safety report and a notification to the Competent Authority, including the provision of information to those who are likely to be affected in the event of a major accident. Emergency plans are also required to be drawn up and exercised.

A safety report demonstrating that the site is operated safely has been submitted to the Competent Authority. A notification with the latest information about the site has also been submitted to the Competent Authority as required by COMAH Regulations 2015. An internal emergency response plan for the site has been drawn up and is exercised annually. The local authority has also prepared an external emergency plan for the site and the plan is exercised every three years in conjunction with the Competent Authority, emergency responders, other agencies and us.

The safety report and the notification are instruments that help the Competent Authority prepare its inspection programme for the site. The Competent Authority also conducts site visits. Information about the Competent Authority's last visit to the site can be accessed on the HSE's website, <https://notifications.hse.gov.uk/COMAH2015/Search.aspx>. The internal emergency plan outlines our response procedures in the event of an accident on our site, including our alerting procedures for you and the emergency responders. The external emergency plan details the actions that the local authority, the emergency services and other agencies would take to protect you and your property.

We are issuing this information to you in compliance with the COMAH Regulations 2015, as you are likely to be affected in the event of a major accident at our site.

What are the possible risks?

Aviation kerosene is handled under carefully controlled conditions, making the probability of a major accident at the site extremely low. In the unlikely event of a major accident on the site, the surrounding area could experience potential impacts such as environmental contamination or health risks. The following hazards apply to aviation kerosene: it is flammable, and will burn if ignited; additionally, it is toxic to aquatic life should it come into contact with either marine or fresh waters.

In the extremely unlikely event of a fire involving aviation kerosene breaking out at the site, it is possible that its effects would extend beyond the site boundary. For example, a smoke plume may travel several miles, potentially causing minor health issues. The fire's heat could cause burns to people within the vicinity of the incident and be potentially life threatening. Additionally, firewater runoff could contaminate the environment beyond the site boundary.

In the event of a large accidental release of aviation kerosene, it could travel beyond the site boundary and into watercourses or low-lying areas, potentially contaminating land, groundwater, or freshwater.

We take the utmost care to ensure that accidents do not occur. We have implemented a safety management system consisting of policies, procedures, and practices designed to prevent major accident events and to limit the consequences should they occur. We also maintain strict operational processes, preventative systems, maintenance, and controls to mitigate the risk of major accidents.



The enclosed Safety Advice document is important for your safety. Please read it carefully and keep it in a safe place for easy reference. If you vacate this property, please leave this document, along with the cover letter and the Safety Advice document for the new occupants.

Further information/ Contact

You can contact us on 01244 390318.