



Subject: Capenhurst Nuclear Licensed Site - Emergency Information

Dear Resident

This booklet should be kept in a prominent place as it details actions that need to be taken in the event of an emergency at the Capenhurst site.

General emergency information can be found on Cheshire West and Chester website:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/emergency-planning/urencouk-ltd-capenhurst>

You can also find more details about our activities on the Urenco website:
www.urencouk.com

In the event of an incident on site please visit the following websites:

@cheshirepolice or 'Cheshire Police' on Facebook

Capenhurst & Ledsham Parish Council Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/Capenhurst&Ledshamparishcouncil

Urenco Twitter account:

www.twitter.com/urencoglobal; alternatively go to our website: www.urencouk.com

Regular updates will be posted through the above media channels and listen to local radio stations (details in next page)

We also support our local communities through both practical and financial initiatives, our employees spend more than 350 hours volunteering in Cheshire and the surrounding areas.

Safety Advice

Go In... Stay In... Tune In...

Emergency

General Information

Urenco Capenhurst is regulated by the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 and Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. Urenco Capenhurst is a nuclear licensed site and also an upper tier COMAH site.

As a local resident you will want to be aware of what living near to a nuclear licensed and COMAH site means to you and your family. We have tried to anticipate some of the questions you may have about the Capenhurst site and the activities that are undertaken on the site.

What happens on the Capenhurst Site?

- UUK provides commercial uranium enrichment services as part of the nuclear fuel cycle for the production of electricity by nuclear power. Enrichment is the process of increasing the percentage composition of the Uranium 235 isotope relative to the Uranium 238 isotope and is achieved by the centrifuge technique. The chemical form of the UUK process material is Uranium Hexafluoride (UF₆).
- There are two tenant companies on the site, Urenco ChemPlants Limited (UCP) and Urenco Nuclear Stewardship Limited (UNS). UCP operates a UF₆ deconversion facility, the purpose of which is to change the form of residues arising from UF₆ enrichment into a physically and chemically stable oxide form suitable for long term storage. UNS provides services in support of end of cycle nuclear activities such as residue management, nuclear and radioactive materials storage and decommissioning of obsolete facilities.

What are the hazards?

- Under normal operating and transport conditions, there is no hazard to members of the public.
- If there was an accident and UF₆ escaped from its containment, it would react with the moisture in the air to form solid uranyl fluoride and hydrogen fluoride (HF) gas. The solid uranyl fluoride tends to deposit relatively close to the point of release and would not leave site. The HF gas can be carried by the wind and is therefore the main hazard to members of the public.
- Inhalation of HF would cause irritation of the nose, throat and lungs with injury in the event of severe exposure. The toxicity is similar to that of chlorine. However, you can see and smell HF at concentrations well below those concentrations which can cause harm.
- If you see or smell anything acidic during an emergency, report it by dialing 999. Further information is available on the UK government website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hydrogen-fluoride-health-effects-incident-management-and-toxicology>

Arrangements

What about Radiation?

- UF6 and uranium fluoride are radioactive, but the radiation emitted is at a very low level. It is the chemical properties of the HF which pose the greatest potential hazard to members of the public.

Further information is available on the UK government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-emergencies-information-for-the-public>

What is done to minimise the risks associated with the above hazards?

- Facilities on site are designed and operated to the highest safety standards and in such a way that it is extremely unlikely that UF6 could be accidentally released beyond the confines of the operating buildings. It should be noted that the possibility of an escape of sufficient material to create a hazard to the general public is extremely remote.
- **The Capenhurst site has been operating for more than 50 years and during this time there has never been an accident affecting members of the public.**

What is done to minimise the risks associated with the above hazards?

- A site Internal emergency plan has been prepared by the company and approved by the Office for Nuclear Regulation. An External emergency plan has also been prepared by the Local Authority. Both emergency plans have been test and demonstrated appropriately.

Safety Advice

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INFORMATION FOR THE GUIDANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

If you hear the siren or smell unusually strong acidic irritating fumes, you should **remain calm and go indoors**.

The off-site warning system emits a wailing siren with a rising and falling pitch. The siren is tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10am. If the siren is to be tested outside of these times, Urenco will liaise with Capenhurst and Ledsham Parish Council who will advertise the test on their communication channels.



STAY INDOORS, CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS. IF POSSIBLE, GO UPSTAIRS.



SWITCH OFF ALL HEATING SYSTEMS. VENTILATION FANS AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS TO AVOID DRAWING IN OUTSIDE AIR.



REMAIN INDOORS UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD BY AN OFFICIAL SOURCE THAT THE DANGER HAS PASSED OR YOU HEAR THE ALL-CLEAR SIREN (WHICH HAS A CONTINUOUS TONE).



TUNE IN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION AND LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO.

PLEASE TRY NOT TO USE TELEPHONES SO THAT LINES ARE CLEAR FOR USE BY THE EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Follow @cheshirepolice or 'Cheshire Police' on Facebook.

Radio channels:

Radio City FM 96.7 MHz FM | Radio Merseyside 95.8 MHz FM, 1485 KHz AM

Chester Dee Radio 106.3 FM | Heart (North West) 105.4 FM



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Please write to:

HSSE shared services, Urenco UK Limited, Capenhurst, Cheshire, CH1 6ER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the Capenhurst Site Emergency Arrangements visit:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/emergency-planning/emergency-planning.aspx>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah>, compliant with the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015.