

DEVONPORT LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT JULY 2024



Devonport Off-Site Emergency Plan (DOSEP)

The working draft of DOSEP v8.0 was shared with responder partner agencies for consultation at the Plymouth Resilience and Emergency Management Action Group (PREMAG) on 17 July. Any comments and amendments are expected to be submitted during early August.

Following final amendments, the new off-site emergency plan will be passed through Plymouth City Council's governance process with the published version expected to be available during October 2024.

This new edition of the plan has been developed to align with the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Emergency Responder Protocol (ERP) published on 10 May. This ensures all responding agencies follow an emergency response pathway consistent with major incident management arrangements across the whole LRF area, whilst the plan focusses on elements which relate directly to radiological hazards.

Stable Iodine Pre-distribution

The annual check of sites holding pre-distributed stable iodine tablets (SITs) will take place in late September, after the start of the new school year. This annual evaluation confirms the point of contact at each site and also ensures the quantities of tablets held reflect the numbers likely to be at the sites at any one time. In addition, the online SITs administration training continues to be promoted and is available free of charge to all schools within Plymouth.

Public Information

The Civil Protection Service continues to review plans for any new housing or business developments within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone and any new postal addresses which are registered will be included in the three yearly distribution plans to receive a copy of the public information booklet. The next publication of the booklet is due in June 2026, although copies of the current booklet are available to new residents if requested.

It is understood that people may begin to move into newly built homes at Barne Barton over the winter period and regular discussions have been held with the site developers. The current edition of the Devonport public information booklet will be included in the 'move-in pack' supplied to new residents.

Emergency Notification System Test

During the last local liaison meeting, the importance of regular testing of the emergency notification system (ENS) was explained. It was anticipated that the ENS would be tested during the summer of 2024. However, because the ENS system supplier is undertaking a major update to its operating platform during August and September, the ENS test will be carried out in the autumn, so allowing Plymouth City Council to validate the alerting process via this new online platform.

As previously advised, this test will be accompanied by a media campaign to ensure residents and businesses signed up to the system have prior warning.

Details on how to sign up to receive the free emergency alerts can be found on the Plymouth City Council website (www.plymouth.gov.uk/emergencies).

Exercise Short Sermon 2025

Exercise Short Sermon is the three-yearly exercise undertaken to validate the off-site planning arrangements for a radiation emergency at the Devonport Site.

The exercise will take place over three days in July 2025. The exercise will be designed to allow a full evaluation of the arrangements put in place to protect members of the public in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation have advised that credit from the Keyham evacuation, establishment of assistance centres and the use of the Government's Emergency Alerts system in February 2024, can be used as prior evidence against this exercise and therefore these areas will not be retested for the exercise. This will allow the Council and partner agencies to focus on developing the exercise objectives on the technical aspects of a radiation emergency response, thereby protecting the public around the Devonport Site.

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