

DEVONPORT LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT FEBRUARY 2025



Devonport Off-Site Emergency Plan (DOSEP)

Version 8.0 of the Devonport Off-Site Emergency Plan (DOSEP), was passed through the Council's governance process during November 2024.

This new edition of the plan aligns with the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Emergency Responder Protocol (ERP). In the event of an off-site nuclear emergency, all DOSEP responding agencies will now follow an emergency response pathway consistent with major incident management arrangements across the whole LRF area. This allows the Devonport plan to focus on elements which relate directly to radiological hazards.

The revised plan was published to partner agencies on 6 December 2024, with a redacted edition available to members of the public from Monday 9 December. The plan is available to be downloaded from the Council's Website (<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/devonport-offsite-emergency-plan>)

Stable Iodine Pre-distribution

The annual check of sites holding pre-distributed stable iodine tablets (SITs) is currently in progress. This takes place 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.

Emergency Notification System Test

During the last local liaison meeting, it was noted that the emergency notification system (ENS) system supplier was undertaking a major update to its operating platform. Therefore, the annual ENS test was carried out in the autumn, so allowing Plymouth City Council to validate the alerting process.

On this occasion, the test was carried out remotely, and this test was 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 aim is:

“To test the immediate response arrangements, detailed planning, outline planning and transition to recovery, as detailed in the Devonport off-site Emergency Plan.”

The exercise will take place on 9, 10 & July 2025.

Objectives

The exercise objectives are to:

- Validate the DOSEP mitigation measures for reducing the effects of a radiation emergency at the Devonport site
- Confirm the alignment between on-site and off-site emergency planning arrangements
- Evaluate the multi-agency response to a simulated radiation emergency
- Test the media arrangements for warning and informing the public
- Examine the arrangements for command, control and communication across a multi-agency response
- Activate and set up the Strategic Coordination Centre (SCC), in order to validate its operation in respect of a radiation emergency
- Test the operation of the Tactical Coordination Centres (TCCs) at both Crownhill Police Station, Plymouth and New County Hall in Truro
- Demonstrate the process for instigating the urgent protective action(s) required to protect members of the public from a radiation emergency
- Activate the Plymouth's Radiation Monitoring Unit (RMU) Deployment Plan to assess its operational set up procedures
- Review the handover process from response to recovery

Activity undertaken during the Keyham evacuation in 2024, the establishment of assistance centres and the use of the Government's Emergency Alerts system, is being used as prior evidence against this exercise so these areas will not be retested for the exercise.

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.

Regular liaison is carried out with the developers of the newly built homes at Barne Barton, and we have asked that the Devonport public information booklet will be included in the 'move-in pack' supplied to new residents.