



Research Sites
Restoration Ltd



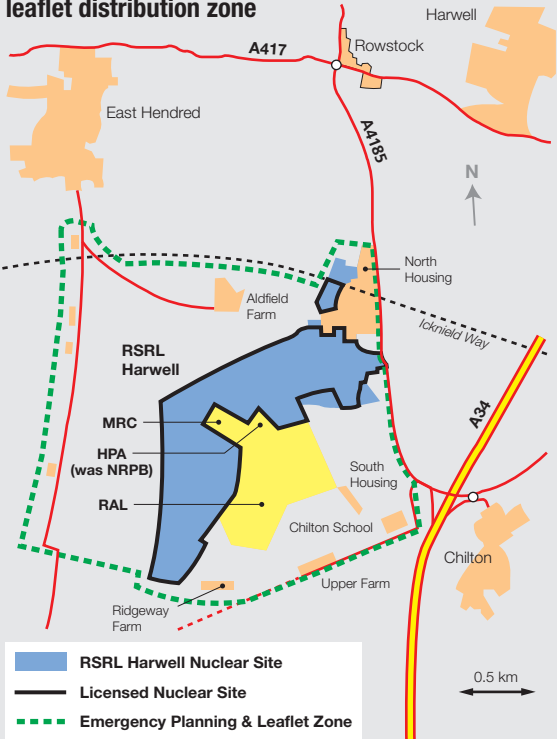
RSRL Harwell

Emergency arrangements, information for local residents

This information leaflet is designed to inform those living near Harwell Science and Innovation Campus of what would happen in an emergency.

Please keep this information safely where it can be quickly referred to if necessary. If you move home before October 2009 pass this leaflet and sheets to the new occupiers.

Emergency planning and leaflet distribution zone



Purpose

This leaflet provides advice on what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency on the RSRL Harwell Nuclear site. By the word ‘emergency’ we mean an incident on Harwell Science and Innovation Campus involving the release of radioactive or toxic material which may present a health hazard to those living nearby. Any material released will tend to drift downwind, dispersing with increasing distance and settling out on the ground.

Safeguards

All plant and equipment on the RSRL Harwell site is designed, constructed and operated with the highest regard to the safety of both the workforce and the public, and in accordance with all the statutory health and safety requirements. These tried and tested safeguards provide the principal means of ensuring the safety of individuals as well as the protection of the environment. RSRL’s own Safety, Security, Health and Environment Division ensures that the highest standards are maintained and independent scrutiny is provided by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (part of the Health and Safety Executive) and the Environment Agency.

As a result, there have been no serious accidents at Harwell in more than 60 years of operation. Nevertheless, in common with all major industrial facilities, there is a statutory requirement for an emergency plan to provide an additional level of protection.

The On-Site Emergency Plan for RSRL

The Harwell On-Site Emergency Plan for RSRL sets out the arrangements for protecting those who work at Harwell and the public in the event of an incident. It has been drawn up in close consultation with external authorities to make sure it works well.

Responsibilities

Thames Valley Police (TVP) are responsible for co-ordinating action to protect the public in the event of an emergency at Harwell. The Force will be supported by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) who are responsible for day to day security on the site.

Emergencies on site

People on site are alerted to an emergency by the sounding of the klaxons.

Klaxon notes:

EMERGENCY – repeated short note

ALL CLEAR – single continuous note

Once alerted to an emergency, you are advised to follow the course of action, outlined on the next page, as a precaution, while the situation is assessed:

What you should do in an emergency

- **Go indoors.** Close all doors and windows and switch off any fans. Pets should be kept indoors, but if they are outside do not go and look for them – stay inside and wait for them to come home, then let them in and keep them inside. Avoid eating uncovered food, but packaged food will not be affected.
- **Tune your radio to one of the following local stations** as any information about the situation will be broadcast by them.

BBC Radio Oxford – 95.2 MHz
HEART FM – 97.4 or 102.6 MHz

Information will be provided on other BBC, commercial radio and TV stations as well.

0800 169 6306 will give you the latest information on the emergency. Otherwise please avoid using the telephone as the emergency services may need to contact you.

Keep your telephone free for use by the emergency services, unless the call is absolutely necessary.

They may need to contact you.

What if ...?

If you are alerted during school hours, please do not collect children from school. The police and education authorities ensure that children from any local schools affected by the emergency are properly looked after.

If you are working outside, please make your way home if you are not too far away, or go into a nearby building. Farm animals should be left where they are.

If you want to go back into the affected area to feed or care for animals, or for any other reason, please contact the Thames Valley Police (08458 505 505) who will have access to expert advice.

Food

You may be advised not to eat locally grown produce for a while after the emergency. This is extremely unlikely, but you will be given further information.

Summary

RSRL Harwell has operated safely for over 60 years. We expect this excellent safety record to be maintained. This leaflet and the accompanying Information Sheets provide advice on what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency on the Harwell site.

The leaflet has been produced in conjunction with Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, the Thames Valley Police and the Oxfordshire Health Authority.

Tests

RSRL Harwell tests the site klaxon system on the first working Tuesday of each month at 10 am. The test consists of a single continuous note (the 'All Clear'), followed by a repeated short note (the emergency warning) followed by the 'All Clear' single continuous note again. Please ignore the tests.

Routine emergency exercises

RSRL runs a major emergency exercise each year at Harwell. This helps to ensure that RSRL staff, contractors and tenants are able to respond effectively to any emergency. These exercises may involve the sounding of the klaxons. You will be advised in advance of these exercise dates on Harwell pages of the RSRL web site www.research-sites.com

Quick reference check list

If there is an emergency you should:

- Go inside
- Shut all outside doors and windows
- Damp down or extinguish any fires and turn off any ventilation systems that draw in air from the outside
- Switch on your local radio station

Public information

Two HPA (formerly NRPB) Information Sheets accompany this leaflet:

- (1) Radiation Protection
- (2) Nuclear Emergencies

These provide information about radiation and its effects, types of radiation emergencies and their consequences for the public and the environment.

This leaflet (Issue No.7) is published in 2009 and is valid for three years. Please keep it in a safe place. Extra copies are obtainable by telephoning 01235 434412.