



Public Health Press Release

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Radiation Inquires:

Japan's nuclear emergency presents NO DANGER to California

Sutter Creek, Ca. Amador County Public Health has received inquiries from the public regarding radiation danger and appropriate measures. California is not in danger. Public Health is not recommending obtaining or stockpiling potassium iodide.

Additional information can be found at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Website:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/RadiationFAQS2011.aspx>:

Q. What's the risk for California from the current nuclear power emergency in Japan?

A. At present, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) indicates Japan's nuclear emergency presents no danger to California.

Q. What is being done to test for radiation that might be coming or is present in the environment?

A. Both Federal and State monitoring is ongoing and will be supplemented as needed.

Q. Does California have a plan in place to respond to a radiological emergency?

A. CDPH has a plan for response to radiological emergencies, called the Nuclear Emergency Response Plan.

Q. Does California stockpile supplies for such an emergency?

A. California does stockpile emergency supplies, including potassium iodide (KI) tablets. Potassium iodide tablets are not recommended at this time, and can present a danger to people with allergies to iodine, shellfish or who have thyroid problems. Potassium iodide tablets should not be taken unless directed by authorities.

Q. Should I be taking potassium iodide to protect myself?

A. No. Potassium iodide tablets are not recommended at this time, and can present a danger to people with allergies to iodine, shellfish or who have thyroid problems.

Q. Should I purchase potassium iodide as a precaution?

A. No. Potassium iodide is only appropriate within a very close proximity to a nuclear event. Using potassium iodide when inappropriate could have potential serious side effects such as abnormal heart rhythms, nausea, vomiting, electrolyte abnormalities and bleeding.

Q. Are there any protective measures I should currently take?

A. The best thing anyone can do is to stay informed. CDPH and other state and federal partners are monitoring the situation. If circumstances change, officials will alert the public to appropriate precautionary procedures. But, again, at this time, the NRC reports Japan's nuclear emergency presents no danger to California.

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