

Connecticut Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

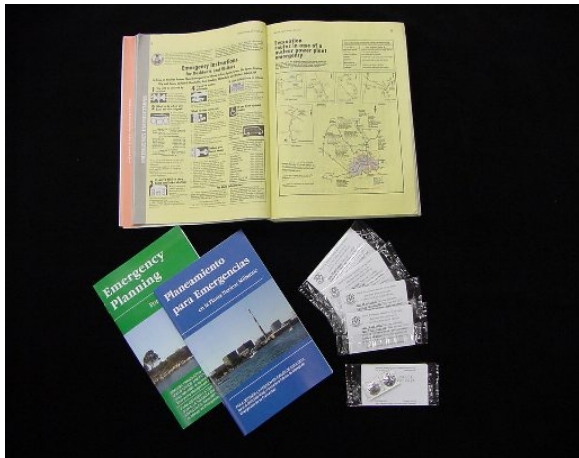
PROTECTION AGAINST POSSIBLE RADIATION INJURY

What is KI and when should it be used?

Potassium Iodide (brand name IOSAT™), also known by its chemical name KI, is being distributed from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to local Emergency Management Directors in the Millstone Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for distribution to their residents. The EPZ is a 10-mile radius around the Millstone Power Station in Waterford, CT. The towns included in the Millstone EPZ are; Waterford, East Lyme, New London, Old Lyme, Groton City, Groton Town, Lyme, Ledyard and Montville.

Potassium Iodide (KI) is a stable form of iodine. It is an over-the-counter drug that protects the human thyroid gland from possible radiation injury caused by radioactive iodine (radioiodine). Radioiodine is one possible radio-active elements that may be released during an operating nuclear power plant emergency.

KI alone does not protect you from the dangers of radiation exposure and it is only meant to be a supplement to evacuation or sheltering. It should not be considered to be an anti-radiation pill, as many people are mistakenly led to believe.



If necessary the public will be instructed to ingest KI which will saturate the thyroid gland with stable non-radioactive iodine. KI is used to provide enough beneficial iodine to the thyroid to prevent or reduce the amount of radioiodine that can be absorbed by the thyroid in the event the individual is exposed to the radioactive form of iodine. One 130-mg KI tablet provides protection to the thyroid for 24 hours. Evacuation from the affected area no longer puts you at risk of exposure to the radioactive iodine; therefore another dose of KI is not necessary.

It is very important for people to keep in mind that KI should only be taken as directed by state officials. If a release of radioactive iodine has occurred or is expected to occur, the public will be advised to take a KI tablet through radio and TV stations following the public alert sirens and the Emergency Broadcast System. The use of KI is only advised in emergencies where the public is likely to be exposed to ra-dioiodine from a nuclear power plant incident. Not every power plant emergency will result in the release of ra-dioactive iodine.

Emergency dosage guidance adopted by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health advises individuals aged 18 and older to take one (1) KI tablet (130-

mg); individuals aged 3 years to 18 years old should take one-half (1/2) tablet (*if 150 lbs or more take a full tablet*); and ages 3 years and under should be given one-quarter (1/4 tablet – crushed and added to formula or baby food.

KI should not be ingested if an individual has a known allergy to iodine. As with any medication individuals should consult their doctors if they have any concerns.

This is the second distribution of KI pills to EPZ residents by the State of Connecticut. The first distribution took place in 2002. Tablets originally had a shelf-life of five years and although an extension of the shelf-life was issued by the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security took steps to re-issue KI. DEMHS, in cooperation with the local emergency management directors of the communities in the EPZ are now in the process of distribution.

Residents of the EPZ are encouraged to contact their local Emergency Management Directors or to look for additional distribution information in their newspapers. General emergency information can be found on page 2 of the "Yellow Pages" and in the booklet "Emergency Planning for Millstone Station". Additional questions or concerns can be directed to the Office of Radiological Emergency Preparedness, Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at (860) 566-4586.