



## Important information if you live or work near an AWE site

*The Atomic Weapons Establishment, (AWE), is responsible for the design and manufacture of warheads for the United Kingdom's (UK) nuclear deterrent. It has two main sites in Berkshire, one in Burghfield, the other in Aldermaston.*

**West Berkshire Council**  
Market Street  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 5LD

Dear Resident/Business Owner

I am writing to you from West Berkshire District Council, in conjunction with Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and AWE plc, with some important information relating to emergency planning around the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield.

### Why are you getting this booklet?

The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPiR 2019) require everyone within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) to be sent a hard copy of an information booklet every three years to ensure you are familiar with the actions you should take in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency at an AWE site.

We last sent out a REPPiR booklet in 2020, hence this letter and booklet, which are being distributed to all residents and businesses in the following postcode areas: RG2 0, RG2 6, RG2 9, RG7 1, RG7 2, RG7 3, RG7 4, RG26 3, RG26 4, RG26 5, RG30 3, RG31 7. This is because the DEPZ enters these postcodes either partly or fully.

### What actions should you take in an emergency?

In the unlikely event of a radiation emergency at an AWE site, you should go indoors immediately, and stay there to await further instructions from emergency responders. You should:

	<b>Go in</b>	<b>Go indoors.</b> Taking off your outer layer of clothing can remove up to 90% of radioactive material. If you can, shower using mild soap and shampoo, do not use conditioner, as this may bind contamination to the hair. If you cannot, wash your hands, face, and other exposed body parts at a sink or tap.
	<b>Stay in</b>	<b>Close and stay away from all windows and doors.</b> Damp down or put out fires and turn off any fans that could draw in air from outside.
	<b>Tune in</b>	<b>Tune in to local radio and TV.</b> Advice and updates will also be given on news websites and social media.



You will be notified by an automatic call to your landline and through media reports, including social media. We may also use other alerting systems such as the Government Emergency Alerts.

Businesses within the DEPZs should follow the same instructions as local residents and should have comprehensive Emergency and Business Continuity Plans in place.

### **What is the DEPZ?**

The Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) is a definitive area around the AWE sites in which West Berkshire District Council and other emergency responders are required to develop a detailed emergency plan, so that those living and working in the area can be protected and supported as quickly as possible in the unlikely event that a radiation emergency should occur.

### **Has the DEPZ changed?**

The legislation requires that West Berkshire District Council reviews the Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZs) around each site every three years. AWE has assessed there is no change to the minimum area, but West Berkshire District Council's role has been to set out the precise boundaries, determined by taking into account criteria set out in the legislation and associated guidance, including geographical features and not splitting communities. As a result, the zones around each site are defined by roads, footpaths, field boundaries and rivers.

The DEPZ around the Aldermaston site has not changed following the review.

The DEPZ around the Burghfield site had a minor amendment, adding three properties into the DEPZ. These properties have already been informed. The increase is not the result of any change in activity or risks at the site, but to improve our ability to warn them in the event of an emergency.

### **Further information**

More detailed information about '*What to do in the event of an emergency at AWE*' and frequently asked questions and accessible reading formats, can be found at:

[www.westberks.gov.uk/awe](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/awe)

and at

[www.awe.co.uk](http://www.awe.co.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Nigel Lynn**

Chief Executive, West Berkshire Council