

**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

# **Nuclear Incident Classification**

## **Fact Sheet**

### **UNUSUAL EVENT**

This category is the lowest of the four NRC classification levels. It is used for a minor event where something out of the ordinary has occurred. There is no danger to the public. No radioactive release is expected and no protective actions are required.

### **ALERT**

This category is the next higher classification level and is used for an event that may involve a small radioactive release or the potential for one. Emergency personnel are alerted to be ready to respond if the situation becomes more serious.

State and local emergency operation centers may be activated at this level and the state Emergency Alert System (EAS) is placed on standby. There is no danger to the public and no protective actions are required.

### **SITE AREA EMERGENCY**

This category is the second highest classification level and is used for an emergency involving an actual or potential failure of plant safety systems. A moderate radioactive release out to the site boundary is possible

State and local emergency operation centers will be activated and the sirens within the 10-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) may be sounded as a warning to tune in to an Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio or television station for information. If schools are in session, a precautionary transfer of students could occur at this level. Other public protective actions are not required unless emergency officials determined that the emergency could become more serious.

### **GENERAL EMERGENCY**

This category is the highest classification level and is used for a serious emergency involving the failure of plant safety systems and the possibility of reactor core damage and a loss of the integrity of the containment structure. A radioactive release is possible.

The public will be notified through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and instructed by government officials as to what protective actions to take. Actions could include sheltering and control of access to certain areas of the EPZ or immediate evacuation. As a supplement to evacuation and sheltering the Governor may recommend that the public take potassium iodide (KI). The specific protective actions to take and the areas affected would be determined by the size of the radioactive release (if any), the wind direction, and the weather conditions.