

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN **EMERGENCY**

**At Vertellus Specialties UK Limited
Workington**

This leaflet has been prepared for distribution to everyone living and working within the local community who may be affected by an incident at the Workington site.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Listen to Local Radio

February 2019



Introduction







IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHAT ACTION TO TAKE SHOULD A CHEMICAL RELATED INCIDENT OCCUR. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT YOU STUDY THIS BOOKLET CAREFULLY AND KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

- This booklet provides a simple guide and gives advice on what to do in the unlikely event of a chemical related incident at the Vertellus Specialties UK Limited Workington Site.
- The Vertellus site is a manufacturer of speciality chemicals for use in industrial markets and has been operating since 1975, during which time there has never been an incident resulting in an injury to members of the public or an environmental incident that has resulted in damage to the environment.
- Scientific research has shown that areas beyond the site could be affected in the unlikely event of a major accident. It must be stressed that the possibility of such an incident is very remote and that the design and operation of the plant on the site is to the highest standards of safety, which are independently monitored by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA).
- This booklet which summarises emergency arrangements contained in the Vertellus Specialties UK Limited Workington Site Off- Site Emergency Plan has been issued to all those within the local community who may be affected by an incident. The Map on page 11 indicates the area involved.
- This booklet provides information as required under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations because of the quantities of stored on site deemed dangerous to the environment. Further copies are available from the addresses on Page 10 and online at <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/emergencyplanning/planning.asp>
- This booklet will be reissued periodically or if significant changes to emergency measures or actions to be taken are introduced.

YOUR FIRST ACTIONS

FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY AT THE VERTELLUS SPECIALTIES UK LIMITED WORKINGTON SITE.

If you receive warning of a major incident, or become aware of one, or if you hear the site emergency siren sounding continuously, remain calm and follow this advice.

1	GO INDOORS AND STAY THERE	
2	CLOSE DOORS AND WINDOWS	
3	LISTEN TO LOCAL RADIO BBC Radio Cumbria on 95.6 MHz FM, 206m (1458KHz) MW.	
4	DO NOT USE TELEPHONES (Unless you need urgent help)	
5	DO NOT LEAVE THE AREA	
6	FOLLOW EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVICE	

For additional information see over...

YOUR FIRST ACTIONS

SITE EMERGENCY SIREN

- The Emergency Siren is tested between 11:00 and 11:30 hours each Friday. The siren may on occasion's sound as a result of other tests or false alarms; nevertheless it may be the first indication you get of an incident. Genuine emergencies will be confirmed as soon as possible by broadcast on local radio. If you hear the site siren you should take the following actions;

GO INDOORS, CLOSE DOORS AND WINDOWS

- In an emergency, the best thing to do is to go indoors where you will be protected from the effects of toxic fumes. By taking care to ensure that all doors and windows are closed you can greatly restrict any toxic gases entering your home. Switch off fans and heating systems, close ventilators, put out fires.

DO NOT USE TELEPHONES

- In an emergency, all telephone systems may become overloaded and this may prevent emergency calls getting through. If you must make a call, please use a landline phone and be brief or send a mobile text message. Please do not make mobile telephone calls.

TUNE INTO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION

- During an emergency incident, information and advice will be broadcast on local radio.
BBC Radio Cumbria on 95.6 MHz FM, 206m (1458KHz) MW.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LEAVE THE AREA

- Never be tempted to leave the area unless told to do so by the Police. You will be much safer indoors. If you are outside, you are more likely to be affected and if you try to leave you may block the roads for the emergency services

What Could Happen?

GAS ESCAPE

Toxic gases could affect areas downwind of the Workington Site if a major chemical release occurs.

SMOKE

Only areas downwind of the site would be affected. Smoke from fires is likely to be thick, dark, acrid and potentially choking. Exposure to these hazards and other toxins, which could be released in a major accident, could in the short term result in breathing difficulties, eye irritation and in cases of serious exposure a life-threatening situation.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

It is considered unlikely that a major incident at the Workington Site could have a significant long-term effect on the environment. However, short-term effects may require access restrictions to be put in place whilst monitoring, evaluation and remediation measures are carried out. Remediation may include the removal of topsoil, restoration of water courses and in extreme cases recovery of dead wildlife and livestock may be required.

What you may need to do

The Police may ask you to;

SHELTER

In your own home or in the nearest building if you are in the open. See Page 7 for step by step advice about precisely what to do.

Or to

EVACUATE

To a RECEPTION CENTRE. See pages 8 and 9 for step by step advice about what to do.

END OF EMERGENCY

Information concerning the end of the emergency will be broadcast on local radio.

SHELTER

- Close all Doors and Windows, switch off ventilation fans, air conditioning and heating systems. Put out open fires.
- If possible, check your neighbours have been warned.
- Do not go outside where you could be in danger of being caught in a toxic cloud.
- Stay tuned to your local radio station
BBC Radio Cumbria on 95.6 MHz FM, 206m (1458KHz) MW.
- If your children are at school during an emergency, you will naturally want to collect them as soon as possible; however it may not be safe to do so. They will be looked after as a priority group either at school or evacuated to a safe place where they will be looked after by school staff and those responding to the emergency. Please listen to local radio for advice and details of the arrangements that have been made.
- You will be told by the Police on local radio when it is safe to go outside again.
- If there has been a gas release it is important that when the gas cloud has passed all windows and doors are opened so that any gas that may have seeped in can escape. The police will tell you when this needs to be done.

EVACUATE

- If the Police advise you to evacuate from the area they will direct you to a RECEPTION CENTRE, such as a local school, where you can stay until the emergency is over. The Police will tell you where the Reception Centre is.
- Use your own transport if possible and go directly to the Reception Centre. If travelling by car keep all windows closed and turn off the heater and ventilators.
- If you have space in your vehicle please take neighbours who don't have their own transport.
- If you do not have transport, the Police may ask you to walk to an ASSEMBLY POINT from where a bus will take you to the Reception Centre.
- Do not delay except to gather essential medicines, etc.
- Check your next door neighbours have been warned. If you know of anyone who is elderly or infirm, and who might have difficulty during the evacuation, please help them. If you are unable to help, tell the Police of their whereabouts and circumstances.

EVACUATE

- If your children are at school during an emergency, you will naturally want to collect them as soon as possible; however it may not be safe to do so. They will be looked after as a priority group either at school or evacuated to a safe place where they will be looked after by school staff and those responding to the emergency. Please listen to local radio for advice and details of the arrangements that have been made.
- If you wish to stay with friends or relatives elsewhere you will of course be free to do so. However, it is vital that you register at the Reception Centre first, so that if someone asks the Police about you, they will be able to say that you are safe.
- If you bring pets to the Reception Centre in a car, leave them in the car but do not fully close all the windows. Alternatively, temporary arrangements will be made for them.
- Re-entry to any evacuated areas during the emergency will normally be restricted by the Police to persons having compelling reasons for doing so. Arrangements could be made, for example, for essential feeding of livestock

FURTHER DETAILS

Further details of these arrangements can be obtained from;

On Site Arrangements

Site Director
Vertellus Specialties UK Ltd
Northside,
Workington,
Cumbria.
CA14 1JJ
01900 60

Off Site Arrangements

Head of Resilience
Cumbria County Council
Penrith Fire Station
Carleton Avenue
Penrith
Cumbria
CA10 2FA
Emergency.planning@cumbria.gov.uk

The Chief Executive
Allerdale Borough Council
Allerdale House
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 3YJ
enquiries@allerdale.gov.uk
01900 702702

Regulatory Matters

Environment Agency
Ghyll Mount
Gillan Way
Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith
CA11 9BP
08708 506506

The booklet is also available online at
<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/emergencyplanning/planning.asp>

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

