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# SAFETY ALERT

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No. 11-02

Concerns Regarding Low Levels of  
Radiation from Japan

March 2011

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Concerns have been raised regarding the potential impact by radiation coming from the damaged Fukushima Nuclear Power Facility that resulted from the magnitude 9.0 earthquake that occurred in Japan on March 11, 2011.

Federal, state and local health and emergency management officials are continuously monitoring the situation and have reported that the emergency poses no danger at this time for California. These agencies utilize a number of redundant monitoring systems capable of detecting any significant elevation in radiation levels. The Los Angeles Unified School District will continue to monitor the agencies' directions and will provide updates as appropriate.

The District's Safe School Plan has a section on chemical, biological and radiological releases including shelter-in-place for potential outdoor releases. The plan is updated annually or as necessary and tested through drills. School staff is familiar with this plan and District-wide drills are conducted twice annually.

Health experts are advising people to remain informed of the situation by obtaining accurate and authoritative information. The following sites can provide more information:

- City of Los Angeles, Emergency Management Department: <http://www.emergency.lacity.org>
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: <http://www.nrc.gov/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/emergencyfaq.asp>
- California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/DEFAULT.aspx>

Attached is the latest update from the City of Los Angeles' Emergency Management Department which provides further detail and resources. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at (213) 241-3199.

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DISTRIBUTION: All Schools and Offices

# EMD BULLETIN



## Emergency Management Department

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### MONITORING STATIONS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MAY BE ABLE TO DETECT EXTREMELY LOW LEVELS OF RADIATION LATE FRIDAY OFFICIALS SAY LEVELS POSE NO DANGER AT THIS TIME

March 17, 2011 - 1300hrs

A recent forecast by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization indicates that monitoring stations in Southern California may be able to detect extremely low levels of radiation late Friday. This projection is based on patterns of Pacific winds at the time of the forecast and is likely to change as weather patterns shift. This is attributed to the sensitivity of the monitoring equipment.

Health and nuclear experts emphasize that if a radioactive plume is to move across the Pacific Ocean at the current level of emission, it may not be detectable and would pose extremely minor health consequences even if trace amounts are detected. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission expects no 'harmful levels of radioactivity' to reach the United States from Japan due to the significant distance between the two countries.

At the present time there are **no precautionary recommendations to take Potassium Iodide (KI)**. Based on the current situation, there is **NO** increased risk of radiation exposure from the nuclear power complex situation in Japan. If a need should arise to start taking potassium iodide, the Los Angeles County Public Health Department, along with other local, state and federal agencies, will work closely with the CDC and surrounding county agencies.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) continues to do routine monitoring of all passengers arriving from other countries. There has been no change in their standard monitoring practices.

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#### About the Emergency Management Department (EMD)

The Emergency Management Department was established by ordinance in 2000 by the City Council and Mayor. EMD is dedicated to leading the City in comprehensive emergency management including: planning, mitigation, preparation, response to and recovery from natural, manmade and accidental incidents of high consequence.

- California Emergency Management Agency: <http://www.oes.ca.gov/>
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health:  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp/index.htm>
- City of Los Angeles Emergency Information Line: 1-800-439-2909

The Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention also has made a hotline available to anyone with questions at (800) 232-4636.

The California Department of Public Health has established a hotline at 916-341-3947 and has information posted at the two following websites:

[www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

[www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov)

While events of this magnitude heighten concerns about preparing for potential nuclear disasters, the emphasis should be in preparing for any of the natural disasters that routinely affect Los Angeles such as earthquakes, wildfires, and mud and debris flow from winter storms. Please encourage your staff and personnel to get familiar with [ReadyLA.org](http://ReadyLA.org), the City's official readiness, response and recovery website. It has invaluable information to help you get prepared at the workplace and at home.

Information is also available at:

- UpdateLA, (<http://www.updatela.com/>)
- ReadyLA (<http://www.readyla.org/>)
- Twitter (<http://twitter.com/readyla>)
- Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/readyla>),

The Emergency Management Department will continue to monitor the situation, and keep the public updated as developments occur.

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