

Spokesperson Talking Points

- Pantex's response effort is being conducted by the Emergency Response Organization, a highly trained group of employees with detailed knowledge of plant operations and emergency response procedures. These employees represent plant functions such as security, logistics, safety, medical response, radiological assessment, firefighting, operations and public information.
- The emergency responders' top priorities are the safety of the public, workers and the environment, as well as ensuring security is maintained.
- We ask you to continue to listen to the local media for instruction and updates. You may also get updates at www.pantex.com.
- The probability of a nuclear detonation is extremely/very unlikely. There are both procedural and engineered safeguards in place to guard against this.
- Pantex has a world class security force that has trained for any contingency involved in the protection of these weapons and the plant. The Pantex security force is in place and remains in a heightened state of alert and is ensuring the continuing safety of the weapons and the plant
- Radiation is the transfer of energy from location to location. Does not result in contamination of the worker.
 - Radioactive contamination is radioactive material that is in an unwanted place.
 - For example – Fire – heat is radiation, ashes are contamination
 - Coffee spill – heat is radiation, coffee that was spilled is contamination.
 - Exposure is the general condition of being subjected to ionizing radiation by proximity to external sources of radioactive material into the body that may result in a dose.
 - A dose is the amount of energy deposited in body tissue from exposure to ionizing radiation.
- Employees who have been determined to have exposure are being transported to the Emergency Radiation Treatment Facility for further treatment.
- We are asking people who were in the Sector XXX of the EPZ to go to the Tri-state fairgrounds at 10th and Grand where professionals can determine if you have been exposed. If you feel you may have been exposed, please go to the fairgrounds.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Emergency Levels

Pantex Plant has categorized this event as an “**operational emergency**.” An operational emergency is declared when an event at the plant requires a special response. It is not likely that residents will have to take any action during an operational emergency.

Pantex Plant has categorized this event as an “**alert**.” An alert is issued when there is a minor problem at the plant that should not affect areas outside the plant boundary. It is not likely that residents will have to take any action during an alert.

Pantex Plant has categorized this event as a “**site area emergency**.” A site area emergency is declared when there is a significant problem at the plant that may require protective action for persons at the plant. Some residents may have to take action during this event.

Pantex Plant has categorized this event as a “**general emergency.**” A general emergency is declared when a very serious problem exists at the plant that may require protection of the public in affected areas. Some local residents will likely need to take action during a general emergency.

What is the wind direction, & wind speed?

Give it in degrees, that way it’s easy to determine that is the direction the wind is coming from. (We’ve had confusion before, we were told that it was a northwest wind, and later found out it was blowing to the northwest not coming from the northwest). Wind direction should always be given from the direction the wind is coming. This is of utmost importance to the public/media in any emergency Pantex may have.

Important Facts to Remember - Not for Public Release

The media gains a lot of sympathy if we don’t remember the following:

- There is a school, an airport and a city southwest of the plant
- There is a small town southeast of the plant
- There are neighbors all around the plant

Location of the incident?

Certainly Zone 10, 11, etc. or some other moniker (Playa 1, Burning Ground, etc.) would be plenty of information for the “public at large”.

Coaching Tips

People want to know these things

- Is it in a highly populated part of the plant?
- Is it operational or administrative: IE production or office?
- How far is it from the plant boundary?
 - Once you take distance to the boundary and wind speed and direction most of those questions are answered.

Was the off-site notification system, that has been provided to the neighbors in the EPZ activated, if so when and what message was provided?

- Pantex has requested the activation of a non-weather related emergency message via NOAA weather radio. These radios have been provided to the residents and businesses within the 10-mile EPZ. The message will contain specific instructions for residents in affected sectors.
 - Example: Attention area residents and visitors located in the Pantex Plant 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone. An emergency event has occurred at the U.S. Department of Energy Pantex Plant. Residents and visitors that are located in sectors (sector numbers) or are (downwind direction) of the Pantex Plant are at greatest risk from this emergency and need to shelter-in-place immediately.
- Area residents should continue to listen to KGNC AM or watch a local television station for additional information. Updates will be added to www.pantex.com as they become available.