



*Excellence  
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# COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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March 15, 2011

**TO:** Supervisor Bill Campbell, Third District, Chairman  
Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, Second District, Vice-Chairman  
Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District  
Supervisor Shawn Nelson, Fourth District  
Supervisor Patricia C. Bates, Fifth District

**SUBJECT: Japan Nuclear Emergency**

With the ongoing nuclear emergency at a nuclear power plant in Japan, questions have come into the Health Care Agency regarding potential health impacts to California. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Japan's nuclear emergency presents no danger to California. The situation is being monitored closely by the California Department of Public Health, in conjunction with State and federal partners including the NRC, US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Emergency Management Agency.

In order to prepare for a potential nuclear emergency, California stockpiles emergency supplies, including potassium iodide tablets, in the area around the San Onofre nuclear power plant. Potassium iodide is useful in blocking radiation in the thyroid. Potassium iodide tablets are not recommended at this time and should only be taken if directed by authorities. If radiation was present in the environment, it would be detected by a radiological branch of the California Department of Public Health which performs routine tests of air, water and the food supply. See the attached talking points from the California Department of Public Health for further information about these topics.

Any calls regarding the health effects related to Japan's nuclear power plant emergency can be referred to the State Emergency Preparedness Office at (916) 341-3947. For information about how to prepare for an emergency or disaster, visit [www.readyoc.org](http://www.readyoc.org).

Please contact Richard Sanchez, Director of Environmental Health, at (714) 433-6471 if you have questions or need additional information.

David L. Riley, Director

DLR:mp : 11-021

Attachment

cc: Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer  
Stephen Dunivent, Deputy CEO