

KI (Potassium Iodide)

What is KI?

KI (the chemical name for the drug potassium iodide) is a small iodine pill. Iodine is a naturally occurring element in certain parts of the county (mostly near and in salt water). Iodine is crucial for normal functioning of the thyroid gland, which is why most of the salt we buy and eat has had iodine added to it. The thyroid gland makes and stores hormones that help regulate the heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, and the rate at which food is converted into energy¹. The iodine in KI is much stronger than that found in table salt, and is also much different than the iodine you put on scrapes or cuts. A serious



accident at a nuclear power plant can cause radiation to escape, including radioactive iodine. KI protects the thyroid gland by filling it up with a safe form of iodine so that it can't take in radioactive iodine during a nuclear emergency. KI does NOT protect your entire body—only your thyroid gland.

When can I get KI?

Starting in September, residents who live within the 10-mile EPZ zone of Enrico Fermi will receive detailed information from the State about KI and a form to take to the pharmacy to receive a free supply of KI to add to your emergency kits at home (if you do not have an emergency kit, now would be a great time to start one).

Where do I get KI?

Once you receive the information and forms in the mail, you will be able to go to any local Meijer pharmacy to pick up your free supply. One person can pick up KI for the whole family or household residents.



What do I do with my KI supply?

Keep KI in a safe place out of the reach of children and/or pets. The best place to keep KI is with other supplies or kits you have for emergencies.

When do I take KI?

Only take KI if a **general emergency** has been declared at the Enrico Fermi power plant. In the case of a general emergency you will be alerted by media (TV, radio) and sirens. KI should be taken within 4 hours of the declaration of a general emergency. However, during a general emergency the best course of action is evacuation. If you are not near your KI supply, do not go home to retrieve it.

¹ MedicineNet, Inc. 2009. www.medterms.com

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What is a general emergency?

A general emergency is the fourth and final level of nuclear incident emergency classifications. General emergency means events are in process, or have occurred, where the facility and the containment of nuclear materials have been compromised. There could be loss of physical control of the facility. Releases can be reasonably expected to exceed EPA Protective Action Guideline exposure levels off-site for more than the immediate site area. Again, these events are extremely unlikely to occur



What if I have questions?

More information will be provided via mailings soon, which will provide contact phone numbers for more information. Only those who are in the 10-mile EPZ of the Enrico Fermi power plant will receive information from the State. Those outside the 10-mile EPZ are not considered high risk and do not need to keep supplies of KI on hand.

For more information:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp>