What do I do if I need more information?

Contact one of the following during business hours:

Orange County Sheriff's Department
2644 Santiago Canyon Road
Silverado, CA 92676-7219
(714) 347-7000

San Clemente City Hall
100 Avenida Presidio
San Clemente, CA 92672
(949) 361-8200

County of San Diego
Office of Emergency Services
5555 Overland Avenue, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92123
(619) 350-3401

City of San Clemente
100 Avenida Presidio
San Clemente, CA 92672
(949) 361-8200

City of San Juan Capistrano
City Hall
33200 Pacific Coast Highway
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
(949) 497-1100

For more information, please visit www.ocga.gov

What is the difference between sheltering and notification?

Sheltering is the action you take to protect yourself from the threat. Notification is the way you are alerted to the threat.

5. Potassium Iodide (KI)

Potassium iodide is a medication that can help protect your thyroid from radioactive iodine, if given within 24 hours of a radioactive release. It is recommended for certain groups, such as infants, children, and pregnant women. To find a Public Transportation Assembly Point near you, please visit www.oes.ca.gov/ptap.
What is a reception center?
A reception center is a meeting place for evacuees to check in and register, get assistance from the American Red Cross and reunite with family members. The Orange County Reception Center is located at the Orange County Fairgrounds at 88 Fair Drive in Costa Mesa. At the Reception Center, evacuees will be provided with a place to sleep, meals and medical attention, if needed. Government health and fire department personnel will be available to monitor evacuees for exposure to radiological contamination.

What should I take with me?
You should take necessary items for three days including prescribed medication, a small amount of cash, checkbook, toiletries, baby supplies and bedding. You should also take your potassium iodide (KI) tablets with you if you already have them.

What is potassium iodide?
Potassium iodide, or KI, is a chemical compound that contains iodine and can protect the thyroid gland from exposure to radioactive iodine. KI is only effective against exposure to radioactive iodine and only protects the thyroid gland. It does not protect against other types of radioactivity that might be released during a nuclear emergency. Please note that KI is not an anti-radiation pill and it is considered a supplemental protective measure, secondary to evacuation or sheltering in place. It should only be taken at the direction of state or local public health officials. It is approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is available over-the-counter.

Will the roads be open? What roads do I take?
To evacuate, follow the routes indicated on the accompanying map. If your car breaks down, move to the shoulder of the road, raise the hood and wait. Please do not abandon your vehicle.

What should I do if I need special assistance?
You may need special help if you have a physical or mental disability, a medical condition preventing mobility, are elderly or need life support systems. You can get assistance by registering with Orange County. Call (714) 628-7055 and request a Special Assistance Card. A Special Assistance Card is also attached to the Annual Community Alert Siren System Test mailer that is sent out in the fall. For your convenience, the card is addressed and postage has been paid.

What should I do about my pets?
If you must evacuate your home, please note that the Reception Center does not accept animals (except for registered service animals). Therefore, it is important that you plan now for your pet’s care in any emergency. If leaving your pet at home, make sure to leave your pet enough food and water for a few days. If you decide to take your pet elsewhere, i.e., friends, relatives, or pet boarding facilities, it is recommended that you make plans in advance.

What is radiation?
Everything on earth is made of tiny particles called atoms. Some atoms in our environment naturally give off energy in the form of waves or particles. This energy is called radiation. You cannot hear, see, feel, taste or smell radiation. We receive small amounts of radiation every day from natural and manmade sources such as the air, the sun, minerals in the earth, the food we eat, the building materials in your house, X-rays used by dentists and doctors and our television sets. Even our bodies give off small amounts of radiation. The amount of radiation that a person gets is measured in millirems. The average U.S. citizen receives about 360 millirems per year from these types of natural and manmade sources. Information from detailed monitoring shows that SONGS exposes the public to less than one millirem per year.