



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962  
(831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: (831) 454-4123

### PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

### PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

<b>Incident:</b>	Information on Radioactivity from Japanese Nuclear Reactors
<b>Principle Investigator:</b>	Poki Stewart Namkung, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer
<b>Date:</b>	March 16, 2011
<b>Media Contact:</b>	831-454-4000

### INFORMATION

- **Currently, there is no danger to Santa Cruz County residents from Japan's nuclear emergency.**
- It is not recommended to take potassium iodide (KI) tablets to counteract the effects of radiation as there is no radiation detected at this time nor is it expected to make it to California in an inhalable form.
- Potassium iodide may be harmful for some people, particularly those with thyroid disease or those who are allergic to iodine, shellfish or seafood.
- The Public Health Department is in contact with experts at the California Department of Public Health and will immediately notify the public if there is a change in this situation.

### RESOURCES

- Residents may call the California Department of Public Health hotline between 8am and 5pm with specific questions concerning this incident. The number is **916-341-3947**.
- Information on radiation is also available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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<b>Release :</b>	#2

### SITUATION

In a statement released this morning, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) stated that **there is no risk expected to California or its residents** as a result of the situation in Japan. Both agencies will continue to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to actively monitor the situation.

### INFORMATION

It is not recommended that residents take potassium iodide tablets as a precautionary measure. The tablets can be a danger to people with allergies to iodine, shellfish or who have thyroid problems. Taken inappropriately, the tablets can have serious side effects including abnormal heart rhythms, nausea, vomiting, and bleeding.

### RESOURCES

- Residents may call the California Department of Public Health hotline with specific questions concerning this incident. The number is **916-341-3947**.
- Information on radiation is also available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- For updated information on monitoring, response and relief efforts in California and Japan, please visit the CalEMA website at [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov)

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