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RADIATION HEALTH ADVISORY March 16, 2011

The San Francisco Department of Health provides this guidance based on current information. Recommendations may change, and SF recommendations may differ from those issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

Currently there is no danger to San Francisco residents from Japan's nuclear emergency. The Nuclear Radiation Commission (NRC) has stated that "given the thousands of miles between the two countries, Hawaii, Alaska, the US territories and the US West Coast are not expected to experience any harmful levels of radioactivity". Radiation surveillance systems are in place at the state and federal level. Current levels are normal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Department of Public Health does **not** recommend taking potassium iodide. Potassium iodide (also called KI) can protect the thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine. Potassium iodide can have serious side effects including allergic reactions in people who have sensitivity to iodine and adverse reactions in people who have thyroid problems. We are monitoring the situation closely and will alert clinicians if recommendations change.

Resources

For more information or for inquiries from the public please call the California Department of Public Health hotline at **916-341-3947**.

CDPH Radiation FAQs: <u>http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/RadiationFAQS2011.aspx</u> CDC Health Effects and Treatment for Radiation Emergencies: <u>http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/healtheffects.asp</u>

Categories of urgency levels

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