



September 17, 2014

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO DISTRIBUTE FREE PREPAREDNESS POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI)

HICKORY, NC - On Saturday, September 27, Catawba County Public Health and health departments in Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties will distribute free potassium iodide (KI) to residents living within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Stations.

Catawba County's specific EPZ is bordered by Hwy 150 on the north, the Catawba County line on the south, Lake Norman on the east, and Grassy Creek Road on the west. The most recent distribution of KI to EPZ residents occurred in 2010.

KI is an over-the-counter medication that can protect the thyroid gland if a person is exposed to radioactive iodine released during an emergency at a nuclear power plant. If taken within the appropriate time and at the proper dose, KI blocks the thyroid from absorbing radioactive iodine and reduces the risk of thyroid cancer.

Those living within Catawba County's EPZ may pick up KI at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue, located at 4011 Slanting Bridge Road in Sherrills Ford, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 27.

KI should be kept in a safe, accessible location and should only be taken when instructed by emergency officials in the event of a nuclear power plant emergency. The protective effects of KI only last for several hours. Expired KI tablets can be disposed of by crushing and discarding with the household garbage.

Residents are reminded that following this special distribution event, participating counties will continue to make KI available at no charge to EPZ residents through their local health departments. For more information about KI distribution in Catawba County, please contact Catawba County Public Health at (828) 695-5800.

Catawba County Public Health, located off Fairgrove Church Road behind Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C., works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all county residents. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"