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Your ref
our ref: TWA/APS
ask for: T.W. Aldridge
extn: 4580
date: 2nd September, 1986.

Ms. H. Griffith,
30 Grosvenor Court,
Vicarage Road,
London, E10.5EA.

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter dated 27th August 1986, which has been passed to me for comment.

There are laid down specific emergency plans for an accident involving spent irradiated nuclear fuel carried in flasks by British Rail through London. The local authority's role in such an incident, as in other major peacetime emergency or natural disasters, is fully provided for in the Borough's Major Emergency Plan.

Below, I have laid out, for your information, an abbreviated first tier response, should an emergency occur.

1. The Police or London Fire Brigade will inform the appropriate London Borough of a nuclear flask emergency within their area. The borough will, if necessary, activate their contingency plan which details arrangements for responding to this particular emergency.

2. Initially, a senior officer of the borough would act as an interface between the Police and Local Authority personnel. As well as acting in a liaison capacity he would act as the focal point for all Local Authority officials and co-ordinate their contribution to the emergency action.

3. An Emergency Management Team would be formed to operate from the Borough's Emergency Control Centre. When formed, this team will be lead by the Chief Executive or his nominee and will be composed of senior officers from the functional departments principally, e.g. Social Services, Environmental Health Services, Housing and Borough Engineers involved, together with officers from other authorities, e.g. Police, Fire, Ambulance Services, water authority etc. and will have the following responsibilities:-

- i. Complement and support officers who are functioning in conjunction with the police, fire, ambulance and other services.

- ii. Ensure that Rest Centres can be provided away from the areas of possible radiological contamination for those evacuees from the zones affected. These Rest Centres would provide shelter, food, information and medical (sick bay) facilities.


- iii) Make arrangements to deal with any long-term consequences of the emergency.

- iv) Prepare to assume the co-ordination function for clearing up operations.

The above, of course, is a very brief explanation of the Borough's emergency role. However, I hope that I have covered areas which are of concern to you.

Thank you for your enquiry.

Yours faithfully,



T.W. ALDRIDGE
EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICER