



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI 2015/07904

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7 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Final Response

Thank you for your inquiry dated 10 September 2015 requesting the following information:

*I would like to make a request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information the Oil and Pipelines Agency holds relating to several items regarding the Naval Oil Fuel Depot based at Forton Road, Gosport, Hampshire.*

*Due to the size of this establishment, I am keen to be made aware of any risks to local residents on neighbouring properties to this site as I am unable to find any information regarding risks and emergency protocols. I ask the following questions to ease my concerns which are established due to previous incidents at other unconnected sites such as the Hertfordshire Oil Storage Terminal fire, Buncefield in 2005.*

*Please provide:*

- 1. Information on emergency response procedures if there was a suspected fire on site.*
- 2. A forecast (map preferably) showing the expected radius of damage locally if there was a major CBRN/explosion on site, or a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone Map.*
- 3. Information on any previous "near risks" reported at this site within the last 10 years.*
- 4. Information on the location of pipelines leaving this site within a 5 mile radius.*
- 5. Approximately 10 years ago a Public Information Emergency Preparedness leaflet was produced and distributed to local residents in case of a major incident at this site. Please can you provide a copy of this leaflet or any more up to date information.*
- 6. Are there any emergency sirens established at this site which can be activated in a major incident to alert the public, such as at HM Naval Base Portsmouth?*

*I understand that some of this information requested may be a matter of national security thus please blank any sensitive information and limit the accuracy of any maps given accordingly to scale, preferably no more than 75 meters."*

Your inquiry is being considered as a Freedom of Information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. However the Oil and Pipelines Agency has

only operated the Gosport Oil Fuel Terminal since July 2012 and information is restricted to that period. Please see the answers below to your queries:

*1. Information on emergency response procedures if there was a suspected fire on site.*

- Gosport Oil Fuel Depot (OFD) is classified as a lower tier facility under the Control of Major Accidents Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 due to the limited amount of product stored at the site. The purpose of the COMAH Regulations is to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit the consequences to people and the environment of any accidents which do occur.
- As such the Oil and Pipelines Agency's (OPA) emergency response procedures, including fire scenarios, comply with the COMAH regulations.

*2. A forecast (map preferably) showing the expected radius of damage locally if there was a major CBRN/explosion on site, or a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone Map.*

- The Competent Authority (CA) under the COMAH Regulations 2015 has determined a Public Information Zone (PIZ) of 1000m around the site. The CA comprises the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA).
- The OPA does not have a Public Information Zone (PIZ map). These are provided by the Health and Safety Executive.
- There is no forecast damage radius (or map) for an explosion on site, as scenario has not been modelled.

*3. Information on any previous "near risks" reported at this site within the last 10 years.*

- Operation of the site transferred to the OPA in July 2012 Information is not held by the Agency on whether there were any "near risks" before that date. We can confirm that there have been no incidents of this nature since in the period specified.

*4. Information on the location of pipelines leaving this site within a 5 mile radius.*

- The Gosport OFD facility is not connected to any other inland terminal.

*5. Approximately 10 years ago a Public Information Emergency Preparedness leaflet was produced and distributed to local residents in case of a major incident at this site. Please can you provide a copy of this leaflet or any more up to date information.*

- The operation of OFD Gosport transferred to the OPA in July 2012. The OPA does not have access to the information you have requested pertaining to Emergency Preparedness prior to 2012, and that no public information activity of that kind has been produced since.

*6. Are there any emergency sirens established at this site which can be activated in a major incident to alert the public, such as at HM Naval Base Portsmouth?*

- The site has a fire alarm which is activated from any one of a number of locations around the site.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal

resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk) ). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section