

What to do:-

- On hearing the emergency alarm go indoors immediately. Shut all doors and windows and stay indoors unless you are given instructions from the police or emergency services to do otherwise.
- Inform others that may not be aware of the significance of the alarm to do likewise.
- If you are unable to go indoors evacuate the area as soon as possible ideally moving down wind and away from the site.
- Listen to local radio for information:-

BBC Tees:	95.0 FM (Recommended)
Rathergood:	103.2 FM
TFM:	96.6 FM
- An emergency telephone information line 01325 308103 is available to provide up to date information.
- On sounding of the "All Clear" siren it will be safe to go outside

If you require more information about the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) regulations, Prefere Resins or require additional copies of this information notelet please contact the:-

HSE Manager,
Prefere Resins UK Ltd,
Heighington Lane,
Aycliffe Industrial Park,
Newton Aycliffe,
Co Durham
DL5 6UE.

Telephone: 01325 300666.

Prefere Resins UK Limited

Information for local residents and businesses

This information notelet has been produced to explain what you should do in the unlikely event of a major accident occurring on the Prefere Resins site.

Please keep it in a prominent place and if you should move home or your business transfers to new owners we respectfully request you leave this information notelet for the new occupant.

The Prefere Resins thermoset resin plant located on the Aycliffe Industrial Park, near to Heighington railway station, is owned by Prefere Resins UK Ltd and has been operating under various owners and company names since 1969. BXL, Perstorp Ferguson, Perstorp Chemitec and most recently Dynea UK Ltd to name a few.

Prefere Resins UK Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Prefere Resins Holdings GmbH.

Prefere Resins manufactures chemical thermoset resins using phenol, formaldehyde and a number of other raw materials. These products have a wide range of uses including decorative laminates (kitchen worktops), floral and insulating foams and adhesive systems for use in the foundry, coal products, abrasives and friction business sectors. Because of the nature and quantities of materials stored on site Prefere Resins is required to comply with the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. These regulations require Prefere Resins to identify and evaluate the possible risk of a major accident and inform local residents and businesses within a zone specified by the Health & Safety Executive, what they should do in the unlikely event of such an incident occurring. This zone is known as the Public Information Zone or PIZ and has a radius of approximately 300m around the plant

A Description of the Major Raw Materials used on Site

The production of thermoset resins at Aycliffe uses two main raw materials – phenol (and its derivatives) and formaldehyde and it is primarily the stocks held on site of these raw materials that result in the site falling under the COMAH regulations.

Phenol – CAS No. 108-95-2; Danger;



It is transported to site by road tanker and stored as a molten liquid. The melting point of phenol is 40°C and it is not very soluble in water at ambient temperature. It is toxic and corrosive and can cause very serious injury to a person if in direct skin contact. It has the characteristic medicinal / hospital smell (It is a very effective disinfectant). In the event of a serious spillage it is likely to solidify before spreading very far and it is very unlikely that any persons outside the Prefere Resins site will be affected

Formaldehyde – CAS No. 50-00-0; Danger;



Formaldehyde is transported to site by road tanker as a 50% solution of formaldehyde gas dissolved in water known as Formalin. It is stored and maintained at a temperature of 50-60°C, because below 40°C formalin polymerises to a white solid and water. Formaldehyde is also toxic and corrosive but it is very unlikely that off-site personnel would be subjected to a sufficient high concentration to cause any serious harm. In the event of a spillage formaldehyde could be carried off-site by the wind and even at low concentrations (1-2 ppm) this acrid gas will cause watering of the eyes but once the formaldehyde disperses full recovery will occur in 15-30 minutes with no long term effects.

The Major Accident Scenarios

A number of major accident scenarios have been identified that may impact beyond the Prefere Resins site boundaries and these include:-

- Loss of containment (spillage) of formalin during unloading, overfilling the storage tank and the very unlikely event of a catastrophic failure of formalin storage tank.
- Similar scenarios for phenol
- A fire on site
- An uncontrollable chemical reaction in a phenol formaldehyde resin reactor and a failure of the pressure relief system to vent the excess pressure generated. This scenario could lead to a total failure of the reactor but consequences are unlikely to impact beyond site boundaries.

Emergency Planning

As required by the COMAH regulations, on-site emergency arrangements are in place to deal with a major incident and minimise their effects. An off-site emergency plan has been prepared in co-operation with County Durham and Darlington Civil Contingencies Unit to deal with any off-site effects of a major incident. The off-site emergency plan co-ordinates the roles of the emergency services, fire brigade, police, ambulance services and other agencies to minimise the effect of a major incident. In the unlikely event of a major incident occurring it is vital for residents, businesses local to the site and members of the public to co-operate with the emergency services.

Major Incident Alert

In the event of a major incident Prefere Resins will sound an alarm which consists of a high volume alternating pitch alarm. When the situation is safe a high volume continuous alarm “All Clear” will be sounded.

Testing of the Major Incident Alert

The testing of the alarm will commence with a “Fanfare” followed by the message “This is a test of the Dynea alarm – no action required, no action required” then the alarm will sound, there will be various other alarms and messages tested then followed with the “All Clear” alarm and message “End of test, end of test, thank you for your co-operation” this will be tested on the first working Monday of each month at 10.00 hrs. Please do not confuse this emergency alarm with the wailing (air raid warning) siren used by Ineos (Hydro Polymers) to alert the public to a major incident on their site.

Public Information Portal

For more information, the public information platform on the HSE website for Prefere Resins can be accessed at the following address:

<https://notifications.hse.gov.uk/COMAH2015/Search.aspx>

entering the postcode DL5 6UE, clicking ‘Search’ and selecting...



Establishment Name	Operator Name
Newton Aycliffe	Prefere Resins UK Limited