

Extension to the Fawley South Public Information Zone (PIZ) Potential Questions and Answers – July 2015

What does COMAH stand for?

Control of Major Accident Hazards regulations

What is the Fawley PIZ South?

Effectively, it is the community area around the Fawley refinery and petrochemical site that we are required to communicate with concerning COMAH. This area is designated under the COMAH regulations.

Why has the PIZ been extended?

The extension follows a review of all Public Information Zones in the county by Hampshire Emergency Planning, which is part of Hampshire County Council. Though the risks from the Fawley site have not increased, Hampshire Emergency Planning has found that the Health & Safety Executive's new modelling program has identified a larger PIZ for the Fawley site to communicate with.

I have lived here all my life, should I be concerned that my home now falls within the Fawley South PIZ?

No, the risks from the Fawley site have not changed and the Fawley site remains fully committed to providing a safe environment both for its staff and our neighbours. Hampshire Emergency Planning has found that the Health & Safety Executive's new modelling program identified that a larger area would need to be informed and we are making the change to comply with the request.

You say that the risks have not changed, but why has the Fawley South PIZ been remodeled?

To comply with the findings of the new modelling from the Health & Safety Executive, which reflects the latest techniques in modelling for emergency planning.

What is the main risk at the Fawley site?

The hazardous substances stored and processed at the Fawley site are handled with the utmost care and the risk of the public being exposed to harm is extremely low. The site takes significant measures to eliminate the risk of release of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Chlorine and Ethylene and we minimise how much of these substances are held onsite. Other substances on site with different hazard classifications can be held under pressure at high temperatures are treated with similar priority.

We also have strict operational processes, preventative systems, maintenance and controls in place to prevent major fires, which could potentially lead to smoke reaching the local community. We also have a dedicated Fire Response Group which is fully trained and available 24/7 to manage any emergencies on-site.

Please take a look at the "Safety Information and Emergency Instructions for the Community leaflet in the COMAH pack for further information.

Is the value of my home going to fall as a result of being in the PIZ?

Nothing has changed with regard to the proximity of your home to the Fawley refinery and petrochemicals site. The site itself has not expanded. It is unlikely that the value of your home will change as a result of the revised PIZ.

My child is asthmatic is there any increased risk to him/her?

No. In day to day operations, site emissions are strictly regulated, monitored, and reported upon to the regulators. In the unlikely event of a major accident, **all** persons should follow the advice included in the safety information pack, and take refuge inside, away from any smoke or vapour cloud.

Could I smell Halogens? What does it smell like?

Chlorine and bromine smell similar to bleach. Your nose can detect both at levels less than 1 part per million in the air and it is likely you will have already experienced the smell whenever you've visited a swimming pool.

How will I know if there is a gas release?

If there is a perceived impact on our local community the COMAH Alarm will sound. Please refer to the "Control of Major Accident Hazards regulations" pack that has been sent to you. You can also find a copy on www.fawleyonline.org.uk, which includes a screen reading facility. At the site, you can also view this leaflet and the Emergency Instructions Card and listen to the sound of the COMAH Alarm.