

# GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN WYTCH FARM OILFIELD SAFETY CODE

## ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN AN EMERGENCY

On hearing a loud SINGLE, STEADY TONE, siren:

- **Switch off** and abandon any vehicle;
- **Go indoors immediately** - if possible, make sure neighbours/fellow workers/visitors are aware;
- **Close** all external doors and windows and shut off any ventilation systems;
- **Extinguish** all sources of ignition;
- **Close the curtains** and stay as far away from windows as possible;
- **Stay in** a room facing away from the Gathering Station;
- **Do not use telephones** to ensure lines are free for emergency services;
- **Tune in** to Radio Solent – 96.1FM - for public information announcements, or check for advice on Dorset Police's website ([www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk));
- **Wait** for instructions from the police – Do not evacuate unless they advise it;

**ALL CLEAR** will be broadcast on local radio, posted on Dorset Police's website or be confirmed in person by Emergency Services personnel.

### SIREN TESTING

The Public Warning Siren is tested quarterly, usually on the second week of each quarter (January, April, July, October). Notifications are sent to local residents prior to any such test - you do not need to respond to the siren at these times.



## WYTCH FARM OILFIELD

Safety advice to residents near the  
Wytch Farm Gathering Station

# REMEMBER GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN

In this leaflet we outline important information for residents who live near the Wytch Farm Gathering Station. We also explain the variety of safety measures which are in place and the actions you should take in the unlikely event of a major emergency.

Please take time to read the leaflet carefully and to familiarise yourself with any procedures which you think may affect you.



This leaflet is published in accordance with the national regulations governing the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) which are designed to ensure the safety of large industrial plants and their surrounding communities. It is distributed by Dorset Council on behalf of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), the Environment Agency (EA) and Perenco UK Limited.

Additional copies may be obtained from the Emergency Planning Service at Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester DT1 1XJ. Telephone 01305 224659  
[EmergencyPlanning@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:EmergencyPlanning@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

# Background

The oilfield at Wytch Farm has been producing oil and gas for over 35 years. Safety is paramount to its operations and Perenco UK standards ensure the best procedures are in place to protect its own workforce, the community and the local environment.

The Gathering Station processes the natural oil and gas from the wellsites in order that these products can be exported safely. The oil and gas is brought to the surface at the wellsites and transported back to the Gathering Station via underground pipelines. There are eight wellsites associated with the Wytch Farm oilfield, two wellsites near Wareham, one at Arne and one at Kimmeridge and the others are on the southern side of Poole Harbour - The product from all of these sites is processed through the Gathering Station.

Once processed, the oil is exported via underground pipeline to BP's terminal at Hamble on Southampton Water. The liquefied petroleum gas (propane) is stored in vessels on site at the Gathering Station, and then exported by road tanker. There are approximately 6 tankers a day leaving the site.

As part of the regulations covering COMAH, Dorset Council and Perenco UK are responsible for notifying local residents of any possible hazards and the actions to be taken should an incident occur. This is a routine procedure and does not imply any increased risk to the public.

In addition, Perenco Wytch Farm has to submit a Safety Report to the government's Competent Authority - the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency (EA) - This details what Perenco UK does to prevent incidents occurring and what plans are in place in the unlikely event that a major accident does occur. The following information on the potential hazards is provided for increased awareness.

**Fire:** a material classified as a 'fire hazard' can ignite and result in smoke. The effects of fire on people normally take the form of skin burns by exposure to thermal radiation and smoke may cause breathing difficulties.

**Explosion:** a material classified as an 'explosion hazard' can be ignited explosively causing a shock wave. People can be affected by blast injuries or by flying debris.

**Toxic:** a material classified as a 'toxic hazard' can cause varying degrees of harm depending on the nature of the material and the duration of exposure. The toxic effect can be airborne or migrate through water courses and groundwater.

**Environmental:** a material classified as an 'environmental hazard' can have a polluting effect on a wide range of natural resources with potential long term consequences, in addition to possible adverse health effects on humans and animals.

The main products present on site that could lead to a COMAH Hazard are listed below:

Crude oil (petroleum)	flammable
Natural gas	flammable
Propane	flammable
Caustic Soda	corrosive
Hydrochloric Acid	corrosive
Methanol	toxic
Odorant	toxic
Heat transfer oil	not classified under COMAH but could have environmental impact.

Full explanations of the hazard definitions are held by Perenco UK, Gathering Station, Thrashers Lane, Corfe Castle, Dorset BH20 5JR, telephone 01929 476000.

The Wytch Farm oilfield has been operating safely for over 35 years. There are systems in place to manage all aspects of its daily operations and these are continually reviewed and updated. In the event of any incident, there are contingency plans in place and these are practised with the relevant authorities and emergency services on a regular basis.