



Establishments with dangerous substances – Seveso installations in Gothenburg

This brochure provides information about what to do in the event of an accident – a major fire or emission, for example – at one of the industrial establishments that handle large amounts of dangerous substances in Gothenburg.

Why do you need this information?

There are a number of industrial establishments in Gothenburg that use dangerous substances in their operations – substances that can be harmful to people as well as the environment. Establishments that handle large amounts of dangerous substances have to follow special rules and laws on safety, including the *Act on Protection Against Accidents* (“Lagen om skydd mot olyckor”) and the special *Seveso legislation*.

If you live close to such an establishment you are entitled by law to receive information about which companies run the establishments, what substances they handle, and what the risks are. It is also important that you are told what you have to do if an accident should occur – such as a major fire or an emission – at one of these establishments.

If you live or conduct business in proximity to any of these establishments, therefore, you have received an information brochure in Swedish in your letterbox. Here on the website you can read a translation of that brochure.

What is Seveso?

In July 1976 the city of Seveso in northern Italy experienced what has become known as the Seveso disaster: a toxic substance was released into the air from storage tanks at a small chemical factory. The accident led to the adoption of a directive intended to protect populations in the event of a chemical accident. This directive has been implemented in Swedish law.

How you are affected by these risks

Seveso establishments handle substances with various dangerous characteristics. If a fire or an emission were to occur there it could have serious consequences. However, many of the risks are limited to the local area within the establishment’s perimeter. Moreover, many of the establishments are located at some distance from where people are.

This means that the risk that you would be directly affected by an accident at one of the establishments is very small. The biggest risks are major fires or emissions of substances

in gaseous form – in other words, accidents that may affect you even if you are far away from the area where the establishment is located.

Companies in Gothenburg that handle large enough amounts of dangerous substances to pose a risk

The Seveso companies in Gothenburg are refineries, logistics facilities, paint manufacturers, fuel depots etc. They handle larger amounts of dangerous substances and are therefore comprehended by the Seveso Act. The aim of the act is to prevent and limit damage in the event of serious chemical accidents.

The role of the Rescue Service

The Rescue Service (Räddningstjänsten) works to prevent the occurrence of serious accidents and to make life safer for people living and working in Gothenburg. Together with the County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen), the Rescue Service is responsible for checking that the Seveso companies in Gothenburg comply with laws and regulations on safety.

The Greater Gothenburg Rescue Service is on standby around the clock to deal with alarms about accidents. They have specially trained staff and equipment to respond to accidents that include the management of chemicals.

The Rescue Service plans and also carries out drills together with the Seveso establishments, in order to be prepared if the day arrives when they need to be. The Rescue Service is obliged by law to draw up plans for rescue operations for the Seveso companies. These plans are reviewed and updated regularly, and implemented in drills at least every three years.

All the companies are engaged in preventing and limiting accidents. The establishments have strict procedures and their staff are trained and do regular drills.

How you find out if an accident has occurred

If a serious accident with dangerous substances occurs, you will find out about it through the system known as VMA – “Viktigt Meddelande till Allmänheten”, or Important Public Announcement. A VMA is broadcast on TV and radio and appears on the websites of Sveriges Television and Sveriges Radio, as well as on krisinformation.se and in apps such as SOS Alarm on your smartphone.

A VMA is also sent as a text message to mobile phones which are in the area where the accident occurred. You do not need to register your phone number with any service in order to receive such text messages.

To these announcements can be added the outdoor warning signal ”Important Announcement”, also known as “Hoarse Fredrik”. This is a siren that sounds loudly

outdoors. The outdoor warning signal is used in areas affected by an accident, but only in particular emergency situations.

What to do when you hear the outdoor warning signal

The outdoor warning signal "Important Announcement" is a 7-second tone followed by a 14-second silence. This is repeated for at least 2 minutes.

Do the following when you hear the warning:

- » Go indoors.
- » Listen to Sveriges Radio P4 or read on krisinformation.se.
- » Shut doors and windows and, if possible, ventilation.
- » Don't go outside until you hear the All Clear, a 30 or 40-second continuous signal.

The outdoor warning signal "Important Announcement" is tested every three months. These tests are held at 15.00 on the first ordinary Monday (i.e. which is not a public holiday) in the months of March, June, September and December.

What to do if you become surrounded by smoke or a cloud of gas

- Smoke and gas can have a strong acrid smell that can make your eyes smart and your nose sting, cause an irritation in your throat and make you cough.
- You can make a temporary filter by breathing through a dampened cloth.
- Check the direction of the wind! Make your way away from the site of the accident, ideally with the wind blowing in the opposite direction.

More information about the Seveso establishments

The Rescue Service's website rsgbg.se/seveso has detailed information about the different Seveso establishments and their activities in Gothenburg, what dangerous substances they handle, and their contact details.

Information about the supervision of Seveso establishments is available from the County Administrative Board and can be requested by emailing vastragotaland@lansstyrelsen.se

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB, has information about Seveso legislation on its website: msb.se/seveso

You can also call the City of Gothenburg on **031-365 00 00**