

Major Emergency Safety Advice

# What to do if you hear the Severnside Sirens



**GO IN**



**STAY IN**



**TUNE IN**

March 2026 – January 2029

# Welcome to the latest instalment of the Severnside Major Accident Safety Advice booklet.

If you live or work on Severnside, you should be aware that there are industries in your area that use dangerous substances. Further information about the location and activities of these industries can be found on pages 7 – 12 of this leaflet.

You should keep this booklet safe and ensure that you pass on the advice contained within to any family, friends and neighbours where possible.

This booklet is produced every three years and distributed to properties within the audible range of the Severnside Sirens.

The design and distribution of this information is funded entirely by the Upper Tier COMAH\* sites in the Severnside area.

We hope you find the contents interesting and informative.



*\*Control of Major Accident Hazards*

# You should follow the advice on this page if you hear the Severnside Sirens

- 1** Go indoors and stay there. Do not collect children from school as they will be properly cared for.
- 2** Close windows and doors.
- 3** Listen to your local radio. Follow emergency instructions you are given.
- 4** Play it safe – turn off any gas appliances, ventilation systems and ensure there are no naked flames.
- 5** Do not leave the area unless you urgently need help or are advised to do so by the emergency services or the Local Authority.
- 6** Do not use telephones unless you urgently need help. This will keep phone lines free for emergency use.
- 7** Stay indoors until you are advised otherwise or the all clear is sounded by the Severnside Sirens.



**GO IN**



**STAY IN**



**TUNE IN**

**Remember:** The Severnside Sirens are sounded for emergencies that involve dangerous substances. It is important you remain inside and wait for further instruction.



The Severnside Sirens warn people of possible incidents involving dangerous substances around Avonmouth.

The sirens can be heard across the areas of Portishead, Avonmouth, Shirehampton, Pilning and Severn Beach.

The warning system helps to make these areas safer places to live, work and visit.

The siren system is maintained by Severnside Sirens Trust, an independent charitable organisation.  
[www.severnsidesirens.co.uk](http://www.severnsidesirens.co.uk)

Following declaration of a COMAH major accident the following will happen:

- 1 The Police will trigger the Severnside Sirens.
- 2 The sirens will sound intermittently (a rising continuous note) for as long as battery life allows whilst the hazard persists.
- 3 The media will be kept informed and regular broadcasts made.
- 4 An 'All Clear' tone will sound (a continuous note) only when the area is safe and if battery life allows.

**Note:** Sirens are battery operated with limited battery life. As such, the sirens warning system is only intended for initial notification.

**The sirens are tested monthly on the third day of each month at 3pm.**

To hear a sample of the Severnside Sirens please visit [www.bristol.gov.uk/emergencies](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/emergencies) and follow the link to the COMAH pages.



## TUNE IN

You can find out how an incident is being dealt with and what you should be doing by listening to your local radio station.

**BBC Radio Bristol**

**94.9 FM,**

**104.6 FM,**

**and DAB Digital Radio**

The UK Government Emergency Alert system may be used if there is risk to life.

Public advice following an incident at one of the sites covered by this booklet should be posted online at: [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news)

# Control of major accident hazards

In order to regulate the use of dangerous substances, the UK Government created the **Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) 1999**, and the current Amendment Regulations, **COMAH 2015**.

The COMAH regulations apply to any establishment storing or handling large quantities of chemicals of a hazardous nature.

The aim of the regulations is to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to minimize the impact to people and the environment if any incidents do occur.

The regulations work on two levels depending on the amount of dangerous substances used or held in storage at a facility. The two levels of COMAH include Upper Tier sites and Lower Tier sites.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency regularly monitor the activities of COMAH sites on Severnside.

All sites have emergency procedures in place and are actively involved with preparing, maintaining and exercising the external emergency plan.



## Esso Petroleum Company Ltd

### Site activities

The site is a distribution terminal that receives and stores petroleum products. The stored petroleum products are then loaded into road tankers for onward distribution throughout the UK.

### Hazardous substances

The site stores products, which are extremely flammable and dangerous to the environment.

Esso fully understands the dangers of working with petroleum products and has taken every possible step to prevent a major accident hazard.

### What are the potential hazards?

Due to the products used at the site, the potential hazards are: Fire involving the hazardous substances; Explosion involving Petroleum Spirits; Environmental impact from smoke, or from the contamination of water and soil. Only in a worst case scenario is it possible that the effects of such events would reach the surrounding area.

The site has trained personnel who, along with the emergency services, can quickly respond to any emergency call.

Esso has in place an 'operations integrity management system' which focuses on recognising and eliminating hazards before they cause an accident.

Esso also recognises the potential impact on the environment when handling petroleum products. The operating procedures, practices and equipment are all designed to mitigate the possibility of major accident hazard occurring and are prepared to respond in an effective way to control a release, should it ever occur.

Regular On-site Sirens Test:  
**Wednesday 12pm (noon).**



**Esso Petroleum Company Ltd**

Avonmouth Fuels Terminal,  
St Andrews Road, Holesmouth,  
Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9BN

 0117 938 6202

# Exolum: Hallen PSD and Redcliffe Bay PSD

## Site activities

Both sites are designed and used for the storage and distribution of Aviation Fuel, which has similar properties to domestic heating oil.

## Hazardous substances

Integral to the sites' operations is the storage and distribution of aviation kerosene, which is flammable. There is extensive operational experience on the sites and within the company on how to handle these materials.

## What are the potential hazards?

Major hazards at the Hallen PSD (Petroleum Storage Depot) site and the Redcliffe Bay PSD site are associated with the storage and movement of fuel. In the unlikely event of a major fire at the site, it is highly improbable that you will be exposed to the fire outside the site boundary. However, a smoke plume could travel several kilometres and cause minor irritation. Therefore, it is essential that you go inside, stay inside and tune in to your local radio. There is also the small possibility of a major spill or leak, which could have implications for the surrounding environment.

There are many systems in place to ensure that the site operates correctly and safely in order that such events are prevented. The site safety record is excellent and the probability of a major accident at the site is very remote. A comprehensive Safety Management System has been established, which reduces the likelihood of such events.


Weekly On-site Siren Test  
at Hallen PSD: **Tuesday 10am.**

Weekly On-site Siren Test at  
Redcliffe Bay PSD: **Tuesday 11am.**




### Hallen PSD

Ison Hill, Hallen,  
South Gloucestershire BS10 7SG

 0117 950 6107

### Redcliffe Bay PSD

Down Road, Portishead,  
North Somerset BS20 8LB

 0117 950 6107

# Flogas Britain Hallen LPG Terminal Ltd

## Site activities

The facility stores Liquefied Propane Gas (LPG) and to distribute to the Flogas network throughout the UK. Filling operations take place in the summer months, with export via road tankers throughout the winter.

## Hazardous substances

The site primarily stores LPG and small quantities of Methanol, LNG and Diesel. Flogas Britain has considerable operational experience with flammable gases and has implemented suitable and sufficient controls for safe operation of the site.

## What are the potential hazards?

The primary hazard associated with LPG at Hallen LPG Terminal is fire, as a result of loss of containment. Flogas Britain have assessed the major accident hazards associated with the site's hazardous substances and have designed the site to reduce the risk as low as is reasonably practicable. Emergency response plans and resources have been prepared and these are reviewed, tested and updated on a regular basis.

Regular On-site Sirens Test:  
**Friday 11am.**



## Flogas Britain

Flogas LPG Terminal,  
Severn Road, Hallen,  
Bristol BS10 7SQ

☎ 0117 905 7480 or 0330 041 6603

# Valero Energy Ltd

## Site activities

The Valero Avonmouth terminal is a fuel distribution terminal that receives, stores and distributes hydrocarbon products. Hydrocarbon products are stored within the facility and then loaded into road tanker for onward distribution at retail locations throughout the UK.

## Hazardous substances

The terminal stores a variety of hydrocarbon fuels that are extremely flammable and dangerous to the environment. Valero fully understand the potential hazards involved with hydrocarbon products and takes every step possible to avoid a major hazardous incident.

## What are the potential hazards?

The flammable nature of the products stored on site is the main hazard. These are predominantly explosion, fire and environmental contamination. All personnel on site are trained in emergency response procedures and we regularly train and share information with the emergency services. The emergency services can respond to any incident on site and have 24hr access to the facility.

Valero has in place a Management System (CTEMS) that ensures that potential hazards are recognised and eliminated before an accident occurs.

Hydrocarbons can have a detrimental impact on the environment and Valero takes seriously its responsibility to protect the communities in which it operates. The extensive processes and procedures that are in place mitigate the possibility of major accidents happening and ensure that we respond effectively should a release occur.

Regular On-site Sirens Test:  
**Friday 1pm.**



## Valero Energy Ltd

Holesmouth Road, Royal Edward Dock,  
Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9BE

 0117 923 5868



# Yara UK Ltd

## Site activities

The site is a bagging and distribution terminal for around twenty different agricultural fertilisers. Product arrives in bulk to the site from Yara production facilities in Europe via Avonmouth Dock. The fertiliser is packaged, stored, and subsequently loaded onto trucks for distribution to agricultural merchants or directly to farms.

## Hazardous substances

Ammonium nitrate based fertilisers are solid granules; some are classified as oxidisers and most as eye irritants. They are not flammable or explosive, and do not pose a significant risk to the environment.

## What are the potential hazards?

Some ammonium nitrate based fertilisers are classified as dangerous substances for the purposes of the COMAH Regulations.

Straight ammonium nitrate is classified as an oxidising agent. It does not burn itself, but will support the combustion of flammable and combustible substances. Ammonium nitrate based fertiliser itself is of very low toxicity, but is classified as an eye irritant. If involved

in a fire, it can decompose and give off fumes containing oxides of nitrogen, which are toxic gases. Inhaling gases containing oxides of nitrogen can cause breathing difficulties, which can have delayed effects. Anyone suspecting they have inhaled fumes from a fire involving ammonium nitrate based fertilisers should take medical advice as soon as it is safe to do so.

Ammonium nitrate fertilizer will not create a major accident hazard unless it is involved in a prolonged and uncontrolled large fire. This is unlikely to occur, as the fertilizer storage buildings are constructed of non-combustible materials and any combustible and flammable materials are stored away from the fertilizers. The storage facility is protected by an early warning fire detection system. In addition, emergency response plans and resources are in place and these are reviewed, tested and updated on a regular basis.

## Yara UK Ltd

Unit 1 Yara/Hydro Estate,  
St Andrews Road, Avonmouth,  
Bristol BS11 9HW

☎ 0117 244 1830 office hours  
National Chemical Emergency Centre  
24 hrs 0186 540 7333

# Other COMAH sites

Within the Severnside area there are also a number of Lower Tier COMAH sites. Lower Tier sites also handle dangerous substances, however, the amount they store or use is under a given threshold. The subsequent threat to people and the environment is less than the upper tier sites, however, you should be aware that these sites also have the potential to cause a major incident.

If there is an incident at a Lower Tier site you should follow the

**GO IN | STAY IN | TUNE**

**IN** advice given for all COMAH related incidents.

For further information about the Lower Tier COMAH Sites, please contact the sites directly or call **Bristol City Council** on **0117 922 2000** or **South Gloucestershire Council** on **0145 486 8009** (office hours only).

## Lower Tier COMAH Sites on Severnside

### Advanced Fuel Plants Ltd

(Scheduled to become operational November 2027. The site will produce and store biogas.)

Severn Road, Hallen,  
Bristol BS10 7GB

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### Augean Treatment Ltd

(The facility undertakes waste management activities including the treatment and recycling of contaminated industrial solvents, oils and water.)

Smoke Lane, Avonmouth,  
Bristol BS11 0YA

☎ 0117 982 0303

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### Wessex Water Services Ltd

(The primary function of the site is to treat sewage and wastewater. Biogas is produced and stored on-site, along with propane gas.)

Kings Weston Lane,  
Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 0YS

☎ 0117 244 1830



## For further information

### **Bristol City Council**

**Emergency Preparedness & Resilience Team**  
Bristol City Council,  
PO Box 3399, Bristol BS1 9NE

☎ 0117 922 2000

**email** [emergency.planning@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@bristol.gov.uk)

**online** [www.bristol.gov.uk/emergencies](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/emergencies)

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### **North Somerset Council**

#### **Emergency Management Unit**

Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road,  
Weston Super Mare,  
North Somerset BS23 1UJ

☎ 01934 426 706

**email** [emu@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:emu@n-somerset.gov.uk)

**online** [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/emergency](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/emergency)

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### **South Gloucestershire Council**

#### **Emergency Planning and Health Protection Unit**

Department for Children, Adults and  
Health Public Health & Wellbeing,  
PO Box 1955, Bristol BS37 0DE

☎ 01454 868 009

**email** [emergencyplanning@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:emergencyplanning@southglos.gov.uk)

**online** [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk)

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### **Sevenside Sirens Trust**

**email** [info@sevensidesirens.co.uk](mailto:info@sevensidesirens.co.uk)

**online** [www.sevensidesirens.co.uk](http://www.sevensidesirens.co.uk)

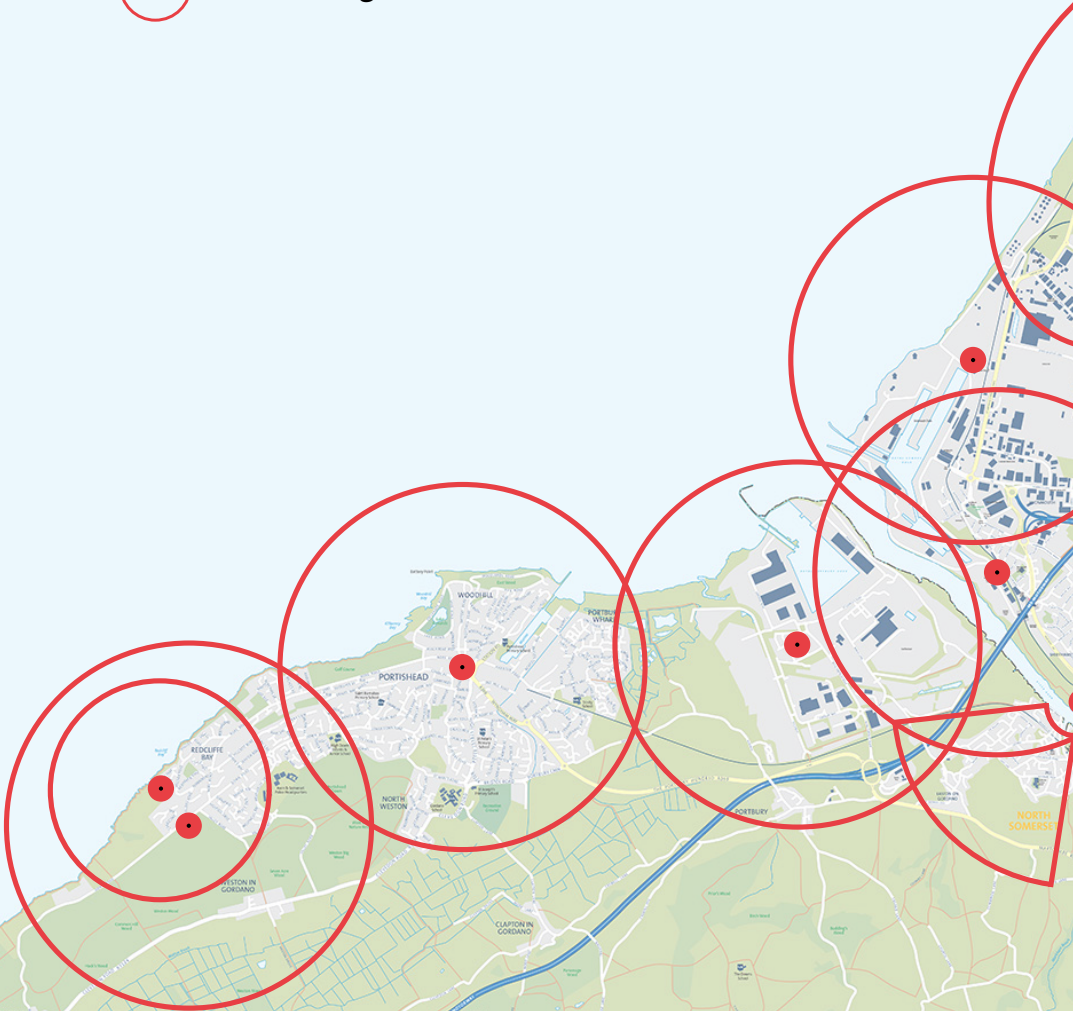
# Location of the Severnside Sirens

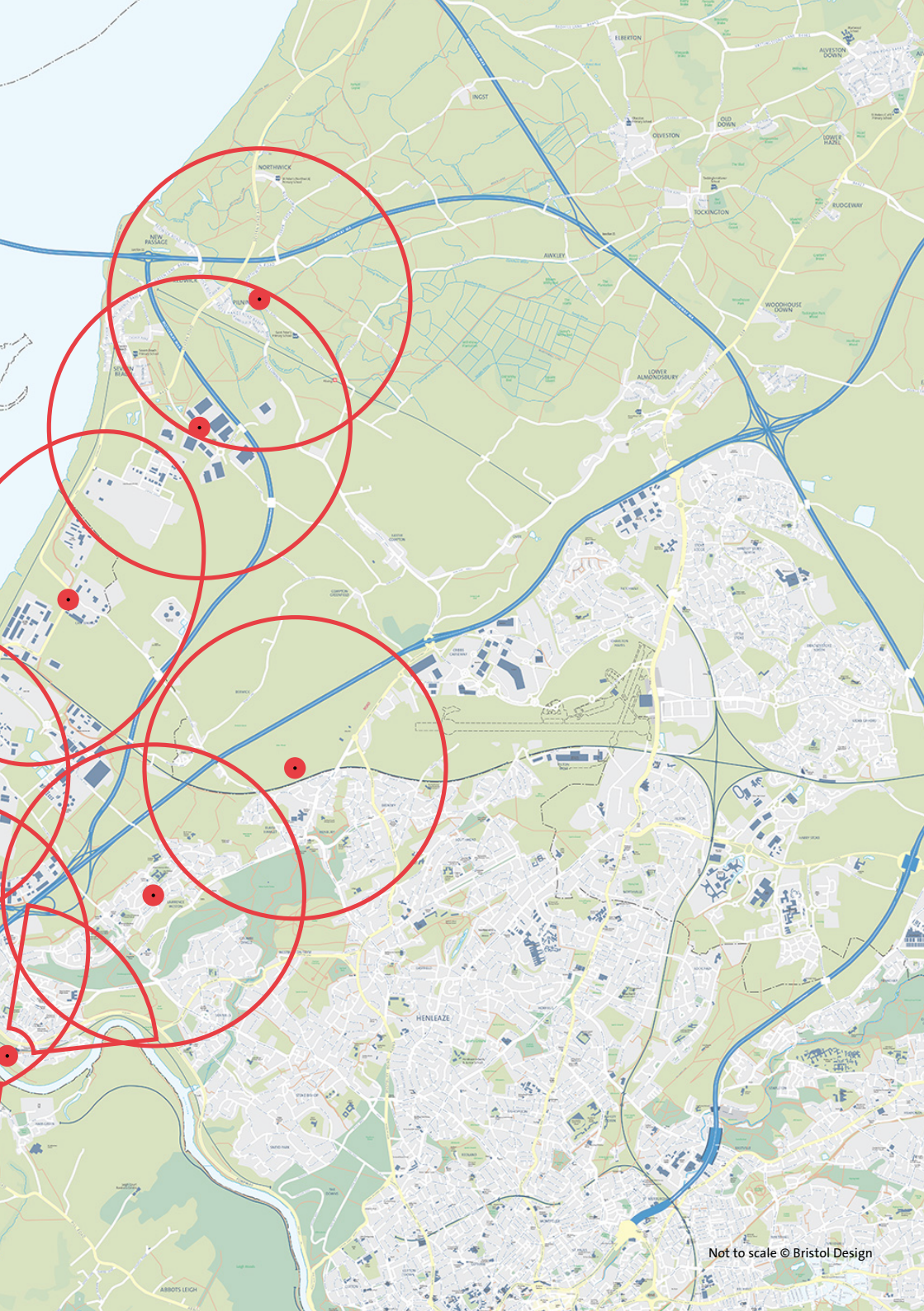


Siren Location



Siren Range





# Translations

If English is not your first language and you need a translation, we can get one for you.

## Bengali

ইংরেজী আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হলে এবং আপনার কোন অনুবাদের প্রয়োজন হলে আমরা তা প্রদান করতে সক্ষম।

## Chinese

如果英文不是您的第一語言，而您需要翻譯的話，我們可以為您安排。

## Hindi

यदि आंग्रेजी आप की पहली भाषा नहीं है और आप को अनुवाद की आवश्यकता है तो यह हम आप को प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

## Kosovan

Nëse anglishtja nuk është gjuha juaj amtare dhe keni nevojë për një përkthim, ne mund t'ua sigurojmë atë.

## Polish

Jezeli angielski nie jest twoim podstawowym językiem i wymagasz interpretacji, skorzystaj z naszych usług.

## Portuguese

Se o Inglês não é a sua língua materna e precisa de uma tradução, nós podemos obtê-la.

## Somali

Haddii Ingiriisku aanu ahayn afkaaga kowaad oo aad u baahan tahay turjumaad, annagaa kuu samayn karra.

## Urdu

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو ترجمہ کی ضرورت ہے تو ہم آپ کے لئے فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

## Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị không thạo Anh văn và cần bản dịch, chúng tôi sẽ giúp quý vị một bản.

## Punjabi

ਜੇਕਰ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਅਤੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਬਾਰੀਏ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਸਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

## Kurdish

Heke inglîzî zimanê we yê yekem nîne û pêwîstiya we bi wergêr heye, em dikarin yekî ji we re bibînin

## Gujarati

જો તમારી પહેલી ભાષા અંગ્રેજી ન હોય અને તમને ભાષાંતરની જરૂર હોય તો અમે તમને તે આપી શકીએ છીએ.

**Documents available on request in other formats.**

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, audio tape, large print, easy English, BSL video or plain text please email [emergency.planning@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@bristol.gov.uk)

This document was produced by Bristol City Council on behalf of the following COMAH Sites:  
Augean Treatment Ltd, Bristol Port Company, Esso Petroleum Company Ltd, Exolum Pipeline System Ltd, FloGas, Valero Energy Ltd, Yara UK Ltd.