



Sirens at Bayer in Berkeley

What they mean, what to do

As a manufacturing facility, Bayer HealthCare's Berkeley site is required to maintain emergency warning systems, primarily for the purpose of monitoring the production of our biopharmaceutical treatments for hemophilia A. This fact sheet explains Bayer's warning systems that may be heard beyond our gates.

1. Ammonia Siren—*Take Shelter Inside!*

Ammonia refrigeration is the most efficient and environmentally sound refrigeration technique used globally, and it is the primary refrigeration technique used at Bayer's Berkeley site. **Ammonia can pose significant health risks if inhaled in the event of a sizeable accidental release.** Under typical East Bay weather conditions, ammonia generally will not travel at unsafe levels more than ¼ to ½ mile from the site's boundaries—along Seventh Street between Dwight Way and Grayson Street. Our refrigeration system has several design features to mitigate the risk of an unsafe off-site release, which has never occurred at the Berkeley site.

- **WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE:** A loud wailing noise that slowly alternates between low and high pitch. It is accompanied by a male voice giving instructions—often incomprehensible, regrettably, because of sound bounce-back off buildings.
- **As required by law, the ammonia siren is tested at noon on the first Wednesday of each month.**



WHAT TO DO: IF YOU HEAR THIS SIREN AT ANY TIME OTHER THAN NOON ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH:

- **TAKE SHELTER INSIDE**
- **CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS**
- Turn off thermostats if in use
- If you are outside, move quickly UPWIND
- **STAY INSIDE UNTIL INFORMED THAT IT IS SAFE TO GO OUTDOORS.**

2. Boiler Alarms—*Will Not Pose Dangers our Berkeley Neighbors*

Steam boilers are essential to our manufacturing process.

- **WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE:** A continuous air horn blast.
- **As required by law, Bayer tests the boiler alarms every morning at 8:30**
- **WHAT TO DO:** No action is required. No one off-site is in danger.

3. Fire Alarms—*Can Affect Community*

Bayer maintains a rigorous safety and emergency response system, with a trained Emergency Response Team and a fire truck on site in case of emergencies. Our prevention and response systems include fire detection, fire alarms, and fire suppression systems installed in every building throughout the site, per state and city regulations.

- **WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE:** On-and-off ringing bell sound, like typical fire alarms.
- **WHAT TO DO:** In any emergency, call 911 or visit the City of Berkeley's emergency website.

Bayer Security Hotline in case of emergency: 510.705-5000

Questions? Contact Trina Ostrander: trina.ostrander@bayer.com, 510.705-7880