

**All Belgians To Be Given Iodine Pills In Case Of Nuclear Accident** ([phys.org](http://phys.org))

[mndsolar](#) quotes a report from Phys.Org: Belgium is to [provide iodine pills to its entire population of around 11 million people](#) to protect against radioactivity in case of a nuclear accident, the health minister was quoted as saying Thursday. The move comes as Belgium faces growing pressure from neighboring Germany to shutter two ageing nuclear power plants near their border due to concerns over their safety. Iodine pills, which help reduce radiation build-up in the human thyroid gland, had previously only been given to people living within 20 kilometres (14 miles) of the Tihange and Doel nuclear plants. Health Minister Maggie De Block was quoted by La Libre Belgique newspaper as telling parliament that the [range had now been expanded to 100 kilometers](#), effectively covering the whole country. The health ministry did not immediately respond to AFP when asked to comment. The head of Belgium's French-speaking Green party, Jean-Marc Nollet, backed the measures but added that "just because everyone will get these pills doesn't mean there is no longer any nuclear risk," La Libre reported. Belgium's creaking nuclear plants have been causing safety concerns for some time after a series of problems ranging from leaks to cracks and an unsolved sabotage incident. Yesterday, a nuclear plant in Germany was reportedly [infected with a computer virus](#).



## German Nuclear Plant Infected With Computer Virus

## In Internet Age, Pirate Radio Arises As Surprising Challenge

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**ISIS much? (Score:3, Insightful)**


[MoA on Reply Login](#) on Thursday April 28, 2016 @11:49PM (#52010827)

I highly doubt the failure of a Belgian nuclear plan will come as an accident. They're afraid of terrorist attacks on their nuclear plants, and are preparing by handing out ~~but instead will instead~~ of eliminating the underlying threat.

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Cost effective solution (Score:1)  
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by froyingslosh ( 582462 )

But it is much cheaper to hand out iodine pills rather than deal with the terrorists or even to properly maintain an aging reactor.

- 
- 
- **Both (Score:3)**  
by [mdsolar \( 1045926 \)](#)  
A couple plants in Belgium have had safety records without a need for extra bad guys.  
[1 hidden comment](#)
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- **Re: (Score:2)**  
by [ShanghaiBill \( 739463 \)](#)  
They're afraid of terrorist attacks on their nuclear plants, and are preparing by handing out iodine pills instead of eliminating the underlying threat. You can never completely eliminate all threats. The potassium iodide tablets are a cheap and effective precaution. I have a vial of KI that cost me \$2. If they buy them in bulk, they could cost far less than that. They can probably do this for less than a euro per household. So why not?
- 
- 
- **Do not push this button (Score:3, Insightful)**  
by [Iamthecheese \( 1264298 \)](#) on Thursday April 28, 2016 @11:59PM ([#52010869](#))  
Unless the pills come with a warning less than two sentences long in large print explaining WHY the instructions should be followed\*, this will hurt more people than it will save. Some people won't trust advice like "do not take this except in the case of a nuclear accident." They'll take them for their cold. They'll take them to treat cancer. They'll take them to see it gets them high. And if, God forbid, there is an accident some will take disastrously large doses leaving others without. You could publicly distribute clearly marked salt pills and expect 10 cases of salt overdose within the week.

\*and a huge public education effort as well

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- **Re: (Score:2)**  
by [whoever57 \( 658626 \)](#)  
Can you actually overdose on Iodine? I don't think so.  
Of course, there are also people who don't need these pills -- people who have had Thyroid cancer and don't have and remaining thyroid tissue.
- 
- **Re: (Score:3)**  
by [thesupraman \( 179040 \)](#)  
You can, around 10-20mg/kg is the LD50 in most animals, however these will not be pure iodine pills.  
Your take iodine to stop the body taking up radioactive iodine, which gets quite nasty due to its activity and retention.  
If your bodies iodine requirements are met already, the radioactive iodine will pass through you with little effect.  
For the general population, iodine supplements are highly beneficial, primarily to the brain development and function.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iodine\\_deficiency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iodine_deficiency)  
This seems
- 
- **Re: (Score:2)**  
by [whoever57 \( 658626 \)](#)  
Since I know someone who went through thyroid cancer, including ablation using I-131, I was somewhat familiar, with the issues, including the effects of insufficient iodine.  
With no thyroid tissue (following radioactive ablation), the body won't retain any iodine.
- 
- **Re: (Score:2)**  
by [Mashiki \( 184564 \)](#)  
Most people get enough iodine from table salt, since here in the west we've been adding it to that since the 1920's when they figured out it was a fast, easy and cheap way of fixing the problem. It's only the people who don't use salt at all that are really at risk. My mother had iodine deficiency as a kid(grew up in east germany), nothing like decades of problems with it and it's such a simple problem to fix.
- 
- **Can you actually overdose (Score:2)**  
by [frovingslosh \( 582462 \)](#)  
Yes, you can overdose. Heck, you can overdose on salt or even water, and they are not normally considered poisons. If you want to play it safe, or if you don't have an iodine pill, the best thing to do when your local nuke reactor goes critical is to grab the little bottle of iodine that has been in the medicine



**Re: (Score:2)**

