

EMBASSY OF INDIA
Paris

(Political Wing)

ASN.fr website 12/09/2011

The ASN notifies that an accident happened in the Centraco nuclear plant (Gard)

At 12h30, the ASN [Autorite de Surete Nucleaire] activated its emergency centre (located at its headquarters in Paris – 12th *arrondissement*) after an accident in its Centraco nuclear plant (Centre de traitement et de conditionnement de dechets de faible activite – Processing and packaging of waste presenting low activity) on the Codolet *Commune* near the Marcoule site (Gard).

According to the first statements, a furnace used for the melting of radioactive and metallic waste presenting low or very low activity, exploded.

The first report announces one dead and four people injured - one seriously.

There were no radiation release outside the plant.

The operator has set off its internal emergency action plan according to the agreed procedures.

Centraco has been operated by the SOCODEI company. Its purpose is the processing of waste presenting low or very low radioactivity, either by fusion for metal waste, or by incineration for the waste liable to be incinerated.

The ASN has been in permanent contact with the Gard *prefecture* and the operator. It has mobilized its Marseille division, geographically competent, and has sent inspectors to the *prefecture* and on site.

FS (POL)

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Ambassador