

## Johnson Matthey in Royston

Johnson Matthey (JM) is a British company with operations across the globe. Our origins date back to 1817 and our headquarters have been based in Royston since the 1950s. Hundreds of people are now based at our site in Orchard Road.

Throughout our long history, we have used our leading science to solve our customers' problems and our science is at the heart of countless products and services that the world relies on. For instance, our teams around the world produce important catalysts and chemicals that enable the world's food and

energy supply chains – and a lot of this is done in Royston.

Royston is also one of our key sites for our Clean Air business. Here we research, develop and manufacture a range of important catalyst products that help the automotive industry reduce harmful emissions from all types of vehicles, saving thousands of lives around the world by making our air cleaner.

One of JM's values is protecting our people and the planet. This extends to the communities in which we operate. As Royston is home to our headquarters, the Royston community is important to us.

### Following regulations

In Royston, we are proud to recycle precious metal from waste materials, which in turn can be re-used to make lots of essential products that the world relies on.

As we use chemicals to do this, we carefully follow the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) safety regulations.

### What is COMAH?

The COMAH Regulations are enforced by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA). The purpose of the regulations is to prevent and mitigate the effects of major accidents involving dangerous substances which can potentially cause serious harm or injury to people or damage to the environment.

Due to some of the substances used at Royston we are classed as a Top-Tier COMAH establishment.

As a responsible company, we co-operate fully with the HSE and the EA to minimise any risk to employees, neighbours and the environment. Our Royston site has an excellent safety record and site activities are regularly inspected by the authorities, with the most recent inspection in January 2022.

### As part of COMAH we do the following

#### Prepare a safety report

Our safety report has been approved by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.

It details the situations that could cause a major accident and the prevention and mitigation measures in place.

#### Cooperate with emergency organisations

We cooperate with the local authorities, Police, Fire and Ambulance services on all aspects of COMAH including the need to prepare an emergency plan which will help to minimise the effects of an incident on people or the environment in the neighbouring community.

#### Communicate publicly

We are required to inform people living and working in the nearby community about COMAH and what to do in the extremely unlikely event that a major accident occurs. We issue this information to homes and businesses within a Public Information Zone which is an area set around our site by the HSE.

### What hazards should I be aware of?

While we process some dangerous substances on site, the risks to the general public and the environment are low because of the carefully controlled conditions in which we operate. We handle the following types of substances at Royston:

Toxic substances - The risk to the general public from these substances is extremely low because of the controls we have in place on site. We handle chlorine, which is kept liquid under pressure. In the unlikely event that there is a major leak, a gas cloud may form which could be dangerous.

Flammable materials - These are materials which will burn easily if ignited in an accident. On the Royston site this includes bulk storage of diesel and gasoline products.

Substances dangerous to the environment – These are substances that, should they enter a watercourse in sufficient quantities, would harm fish and aquatic plants and animals.

As part of our regular safety planning for the site and in preparing for the COMAH safety report, we have identified certain situations where a major accident could affect people or the environment in the surrounding area.

#### These scenarios include;

- A failure of equipment (e.g. pipework or a storage tank) resulting in the release of a flammable and/or toxic substance
- A fire and/or explosion involving a flammable substance(s)
- Environmental damage caused by environmentally toxic materials being released

At Johnson Matthey, health and safety is our number one priority so we have invested significantly in measures to prevent or mitigate these sorts of incidents. These measures are assessed regularly by the HSE and Environment Agency.

### Emergency plans

We have well established emergency procedures for dealing with any incident on the site. Our emergency response teams provide cover 24 hours a day throughout the year. They evaluate any emergency and take immediate action to deal with it. If necessary, they will call out the emergency services to assist.

In the event of a major accident on site, we would work closely with the Emergency Services and the Local Authorities. Our own Internal Emergency Plan would be put into action. This would be carried out at the same time as an External Emergency Plan prepared by the Local Authorities which details the actions that they would take to protect you and your property, alongside the emergency services and other agencies.

## COMAH public warning alarm

In the unlikely event of an emergency on our site which could affect the local community, a warning siren will sound. This siren is much louder than our regular on-site alarms and can be heard over a wide area. If you hear this alarm at any time for more than a few seconds, please follow the public safety instructions in this leaflet. At the same time, we will activate the off-site emergency plan.

This siren will be tested out loud annually so that you know what it sounds like and you will be informed in advance when this test will take place. It will also be regularly tested silently.



In the unlikely event of an incident, and you hear the COMAH siren, please follow the procedure set out below;

**Go to a safe place**  
Go indoors. Do not leave your home or work or go outside.

**Make that place safe**  
Close all outside doors and windows, as well as any other ventilation.

**Tune in**  
Switch on a radio and tune in to BBC Three Counties Radio on 95.5 FM, 103.8 FM or 104.5 FM. Listen for any announcements. Follow any instructions provided by the Emergency Services.

Check [matthey.com/royston](http://matthey.com/royston) for any further updates.

Do not phone the Emergency Services unless you are injured or hurt. Lines need to be kept free for communications.

### All clear

Wait inside until the 'all clear' is given or you are given other advice. Messages giving the 'all clear' will be issued by the Emergency Services, or via local radio.

## Further information / contact details

The information in this leaflet is important. Please keep or display it in a safe place and ensure that everyone in your address is aware of it and understands what actions to take. If you move please give this leaflet to the new occupant.

Further copies of this leaflet are available on request from [comah.royston@matthey.com](mailto:comah.royston@matthey.com)  
01763 253091

For further information about our site:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/comah/comah-establishments.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/comah-establishments.htm)  
[www.matthey.com/royston](http://www.matthey.com/royston)

For further information about COMAH, please contact:

**Hertfordshire County Council**  
01992 555961  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/fire-and-rescue/are-you-ready-for-anything.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/fire-and-rescue/are-you-ready-for-anything.aspx)

**Health & Safety Executive**  
Enquiries: 0151 951 4000 or  
[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

**Environment Agency**  
Enquiries: 03708 506 506 or  
[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/)

**North Herts District Council**  
0300 777 4125 (emergency out of hours) or  
[www.north-herts.gov.uk/](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/)



# JM

## Safety information for our neighbours



**Johnson Matthey**  
Inspiring science, enhancing life