

Science 'Project' Creates False Radiation Alert

Editor's Note: You can't make this stuff up, too funny. Always supervise your child's science projects.

BERLIN (Reuters) - A toy nuclear power plant built by two six year-olds sparked a public alert in Germany, only for authorities to discover the would-be security threat was the shell of a computer with a radiation warning sign stuck to it.

Fire services and police cordoned off several streets and told residents to stay indoors in the western town of Oelde after the two boys left their mock power station on the street when they went home for dinner Monday evening.

"It wasn't a prank, they were just playing," a local police spokeswoman said Tuesday. "The boys tried to go back later to carry on but the fire brigade wouldn't let them through."

The lock-down of the area began when a passer-by saw the metal object with the yellow and black symbol on it, took fright and alerted authorities, the spokeswoman said.

Police sent out warnings on local radio for residents to remain in their homes while a radiation detector was rushed to the scene to investigate the old computer casing and the warning sign, which the boys had printed out from the internet.

After the object had been identified, the boys' parents explained to police the children had gone out to "play nuclear power station" that evening, the spokeswoman said.

Most Popular Today on ECNmag.com:

- [They're Taking Kodachrome Away \[1\]](#)
- [Montana City Asks Job Seekers For Social Network Info \[2\]](#)
- [The Perfect Mobile Phone Is \(Nearly\) Here \[3\]](#)
- [A Look Back - The Commodore 64 vs. the iPhone 3G S \[4\]](#)
- [China Backs Down on Blocking Software \[5\]](#)
- [Coal Issue Clouds Carbon-Cap Efforts \[6\]](#)
- [Herschel Telescope Opens for Business \[7\]](#)
- [LG Will Offer Monitor With Computer Virtualization](#)

Science 'Project' Creates False Radiation Alert

Published on Electronic Component News (<http://www.ecnmag.com>)

	<p>[8]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LED Share Explodes in LCD Backlighting <p>[9]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MySpace Slashes Jobs Worldwide <p>[10]</p>
--	--

Source URL (retrieved on 09/16/2014 - 10:55am):

<http://www.ecnmag.com/news/2009/06/science-project-creates-false-radiation-alert>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.ecnmag.com/news-Theyre-Taking-Kodachrome-Away-062209.aspx>
- [2] <http://www.ecnmag.com/news-jobseeker-social-info-062209.aspx>
- [3] <http://www.ecnmag.com/blog-The-Perfect-Mobile-Phone-Is-Nearly-Here-061909.aspx>
- [4] <http://www.ecnmag.com/blog-A-Look-Back-The-Commodore-64-vs-the-iPhone-3G-S-062309.aspx>
- [5] <http://www.ecnmag.com/news-China-Backs-Down-on-Blocking-Software-061809.aspx>
- [6] <http://www.ecnmag.com/news-Coal-Issue-Clouds-China-Carbon-Cap-Efforts-061909.aspx>
- [7] <http://www.ecnmag.com/blog-Herschel-Telescope-Opens-for-Business-061909.aspx>
- [8] <http://www.ecnmag.com/news-LG-Will-Offer-Monitor-With-Computer-Virtualization-061809.aspx>
- [9] <http://www.ecnmag.com/news-LED-Share-Explodes-in-LCD-Backlighting-062209.aspx>
- [10] <http://www.ecnmag.com/news-MySpace-Slashes-Jobs-Worldwide-062309.aspx>