

| Characteristics | Agent: Radiological WMD Description: Any device that causes the purposeful dissemination of radioactive material without a nuclear detonation. Methods of dispersal can include any passive or active deposition of unsealed radioactive material in the form of liquid, solid, aerosol, or gas into the environment including air, water, soil, or food supply of a population. These devices can affect a range of populations from very small to very large depending on the dispersal potential of the device. Devices may include but are not limited to explosive devices (Dirty Bomb), crop dusting aircraft, drinking water treatment facilities, HVAC systems, etc. Typical radionuclides include Americium 241, Californium 252, Cesium 137, Cobalt 60, Iridium 192, Plutonium 238, Polonium 210, Radium 226, and Strontium 90. Note: This list of dispersal devices & radionuclides is comprehensive BUT not all inclusive! | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|-----------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|---------|--|
| | <table><tr><th>Alpha Radiation</th><th>Beta Radiation</th><th>Gamma Radiation</th></tr><tr><td>Heavy, charged particle (Helium nucleus, 2 protons & 2 neutrons).</td><td>A light, sub-atomic particle (electron).</td><td>Electromagnetic radiation (like visible light).</td></tr><tr><td>Travels only a few inches in air; can't penetrate human skin or clothing; thin paper or dust can prevent its detection.</td><td>Travels several feet in air; can penetrate human skin & clothing; in human tissue travels < 1/8 inch; plastics & other lightweight materials prevent its detection.</td><td>Travels many feet in air; can penetrate many inches in human tissue & most materials; materials like thick concrete, steel & lead prevent its detection.</td></tr><tr><td>Harmful if inhaled or swallowed; not an external hazard.</td><td>Harmful if inhaled/swallowed; not external hazard except to skin/eyes.</td><td>Harmful if inhaled/swallowed; is an external hazard even at several feet from the source.</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">HALF-LIFE: Rad materials decay by releasing alpha, beta or gamma radiation energy. If half-life of material is >100s of years, radiations may not be "seen" over short measurement times. Each isotope has its own half-life.</td></tr></table> | | | Alpha Radiation | Beta Radiation | Gamma Radiation | Heavy, charged particle (Helium nucleus, 2 protons & 2 neutrons). | A light, sub-atomic particle (electron). | Electromagnetic radiation (like visible light). | Travels only a few inches in air; can't penetrate human skin or clothing; thin paper or dust can prevent its detection. | Travels several feet in air; can penetrate human skin & clothing; in human tissue travels < 1/8 inch; plastics & other lightweight materials prevent its detection. | Travels many feet in air; can penetrate many inches in human tissue & most materials; materials like thick concrete, steel & lead prevent its detection. | Harmful if inhaled or swallowed; not an external hazard. | Harmful if inhaled/swallowed; not external hazard except to skin/eyes. | Harmful if inhaled/swallowed; is an external hazard even at several feet from the source. | HALF-LIFE: Rad materials decay by releasing alpha, beta or gamma radiation energy. If half-life of material is >100s of years, radiations may not be "seen" over short measurement times. Each isotope has its own half-life. | | |
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| CAUTION: Doses are for healthy adult worker & don't apply to children or declared pregnant workers. Lowest Dose with Observable effects: <table><tr><th>Short-Term Whole-Body Dose ^a</th><th>Short-Term Symptoms (nausea & vomiting within 4 hrs)</th></tr><tr><td>100 rad (1 Gy)</td><td>5 – 30 (%)</td></tr></table> | | | Short-Term Whole-Body Dose ^a | Short-Term Symptoms (nausea & vomiting within 4 hrs) | 100 rad (1 Gy) | 5 – 30 (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1,000 (10 Gy) | 100 (%) | >90 (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Effect Levels | RULES OF THUMB: Unless performing lifesaving or critical operations, If no site specific rad H&S guidance is available & any instrument displays ≥ 2mR/hr, back away, secure area & seek rad H&S input. In all radiation responses: Decrease exposure time & frequency & increase distance & shielding | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Dosimetry | Real time or self-reading dosimeter in addition to a dose of record dosimeter, like a Thermoluminescent Dosimeter (TLD) or Optically Stimulated Luminescent (OSL), should be worn at all times. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | PPE | CAUTION: Regardless of PPE used, include dosimetry. Emergency Responders: Wear PPE as designated by site conditions or HASP & record levels worn. PPE Levels, based on scenario risks - from highest level of protection to least are: 1) Level A protective suit with pressure-demand Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), when: a) event is uncontrolled, b) the type(s) of airborne agent(s) is unknown, c) the dispersal method is unknown, d) dispersal is still occurring or, e) dispersal has stopped, but no information on duration of the dispersal of radioactive material, or what the exposure/dose rate may be. 2) Level B protective suit with Pressure-demand SCBA, when: a) RDD release is controlled or other conditions present a splash hazard. 3) Level C protection with full face-piece respirator with P100 filter or PAPR with HEPA filters when there is a risk of airborne contamination. 4) Level D protection when site conditions permit minimum protection and no airborne radioactivity is present. Emergency Workers: PPE recommendations for other than emergency responders must be developed for site specific conditions in the HASP. PPE will vary by job type (e.g., cleanup, decon), type of exposure (e.g., airborne or surface/liquid/soil hazard), & other site hazards (e.g., chemical, physical). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Medical | Baseline: Annual physical & respiratory function exams. During Incident: Conduct medical monitoring pre-entry and post exit from Control Zone. Post Incident: Monitor for signs/symptoms & seek medical attention, if necessary, ASAP. Treatment post exposure will depend on exposure pathway (e.g., internal v. external), amount of dose received and isotope(s) involved. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | First Aid | NOTE: COMMENCE LIFESAVING OR NECESSARY TREATMENT PRIOR TO PATIENT DECON If signs/symptoms of illness occur, ensure medical attention is provided ASAP. Remove to nearest medical facility IF ANY ONE of the following exists: If on-site decon is unsuccessful OR If a dose of > 200 rem is likely OR If serious injury is present. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Safety | Field Air Sampling: Use a Hi-Vol air pump ≥ 10 cfm (e.g. RADECO 810) with a 4" diameter cellulose filter. For ER sampling, a 10 minute "grab" sample is obtained at 35 cfm (i.e., 10,000 m³ total). The sample count results can be used for respiratory protection determination by comparing filter count data against the Annual Limits on Intake (ALIs) & Derived Air Concentrations (DACs) tables for occupational workers in 10CFR20, Appendix B. If sampling for radioiodine, a Lo-Vol < 10 cfm w/filter and silver zeolite cartridge is typically used. (Note: Lo-Vols are large, require hours of run-time, and are not typically used for general rad ER work.) Continuous Air Monitoring (e.g., ECAMS) devices provide real time contaminant air concentration or filter samples for analysis. Flow rates, volumes and sampling times for all devices are set to ensure enough dust & particulates are collected to be able to determine the airborne radioactivity concentration. Many state programs have air sampling programs whose data can provide background radiation air concentration info. This internet site http://www.crcpd.org/Map/RCPmap.htm provides state rad program info. EPA operates RADNET, a national monitoring system for air, drinking water, precipitation & milk in various cities & monitors real time gamma radiation levels. EPA data can be accessed by contacting EPA's HQ EOC at 202-564-3850. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Air Sample Analysis: When sampling, the filters collect dust & particulates with radioactive material attached. The radioactivity on the filters can be counted using a handheld instrument (e.g., Geiger-Mueller pancake probe) or portable drawer counter (e.g., Ludlum 2929 or 3030) or sent to a lab. CAUTION: Short Lived Natural Radon Decay Products may cause high counts on filters that are counted immediately after sampling. Don appropriate respiratory protection based on initial count as compared to ALI/DAC Tables as per Health Physics support. Filters should be recounted a minimum of 4 hours later to allow for Radon Products to decay. Resultant activity can be assumed to be contaminant of interest. Respiratory Protection may be reduced based on recounted filters as per Health Physics support advisement. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Field Detection | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>Portable Field Instruments: When looking for radioactive material in particulate form (either alpha, beta, and/or gamma), the National Buy lists Ludlum 2241-2 meter with: 1) 44-9 for performing contamination surveys on surfaces with alpha, beta, and/or gamma, 2) 44-10 for low energy gamma radiation, 3) 43-68 for alpha and/or beta radiation, or 4) 43-90 for alpha only. If alpha and/or beta radioactive materials are found on a smooth, flat surface, the 239-1F floor monitor could be used. A Ludlum 15 contains two separate probes that can measure alpha, beta, and gamma on one probe and fast and thermal neutrons on the other probe. If 2" swipes and/or air filters are collected, the media can be counted using a Ludlum 3030 swipe counter. For identification/quantification of alpha, beta, gamma, and/or neutrons, a SAM 940 or SAM 935 can be used but may require advanced training prior to use due to complexity of menus and interpretation of spectrum. For initial entry to determine exposure/dose rate measurements, Ludlum 192 can be used to determine low level gamma radiation for turn back limits. If going into a high exposure/dose rate area > 1mR/hr, the field team member must use high range instrument such as the RO-20 or RO-2A.</p> |
| Sampling | <p>BEFORE OBTAINING SAMPLES: Identify sample transportation requirements. Contact EPA/HQ-EOC (202-564-3850) for info on labs to analyze rad samples. Clearly identify & coordinate with the lab to be used since most labs cannot analyze all types of environmental media. Coordinate with investigative units (e.g., FBI) to ensure sample chain-of-custody is maintained between groups.</p> <p>Note: Detection/analytical equipment & sampling techniques will be highly site-specific & depend on: 1) the characteristics of the RDD; 2) the type of contaminated surfaces (e.g., porous v. nonporous); 3) the phases/purposes of sampling (initial ID v. post-decon sampling); 4) transportation regulations; 5) the acceptance criteria of the analytical laboratory; & 6) the sample decon requirements for the waste disposal facilities to be used.</p> <p>SAMPLE COLLECTION: A sampling plan should be created with Subject Matter Expert (SME) input if available. Initial sampling is conducted to define the affected area, determine if the contamination is airborne, and identify radiation type and radionuclide. Further sampling can focus on determining the amount of contaminant present, once initial results identify the nuclide.</p> <p>Sampling Location Plans: NARAC will provide a preliminary model of the affected area based upon current weather conditions and source estimations, probably within a couple hours of being notified of the event. As time goes on the accuracy of this model will improve as results from ongoing samples and measurements are incorporated. The model outputs can be used to guide the best locations for sampling activities. To determine if the contamination is airborne initially place air samplers close to ground zero and a considerable distance downrange. Knowing if the contamination is airborne directly affects PPE selection and should be done first. The perimeter of the affected area can be found using contamination measurements (cpm) taken 1-2 inches from surfaces and dose rate measurements (µR/hr) taken at waist height. If contamination is detected on a swipe or if the meter reads 2-5 times above background, the area is likely contaminated. Water and soil sampling are also conducted to define the affected area, but usually follow air and surface measurements.</p> <p>All samples should be collected in accordance with appropriate procedures. A field log should also be kept during sampling activities to record time, location, and sample type as these are collected. A consistent sampling ID or numbering scheme should be established before samples are collected. Each sample must be ID'ed as they are collected.</p> <p>Types of Samples: Air, water, soil, contaminated surfaces (swipes).</p> <p>Air: See field detection section above</p> <p>Water: These are radionuclide specific; follow the SOP for sample collection information. These samples usually require a sample volume of at least 1 gal and may require chemical preservation.</p> <p>Soil: Obtain a sample from a non-vegetated area. A 5x5x1 inch deep sample (~ 1 lb) should be carefully placed in a plastic bag (try to keep the soil intact as much as possible).</p> <p>Contaminated Surfaces (Swipe Sampling): Using an appropriate swipe media, gently wipe a 100 cm² area with gentle pressure. This can be a (4 by 4 inch square) area of the surface, or a 1 meter long S pattern the width of the wipe.</p> <p>Sample Packaging & Shipping: Subject to DOT, USPS, OSHA & IATA regulations. Contact the sample-receiving lab for their preservation, packaging, shipping & labeling requirements.</p> |
| Laboratory Analysis | <p>Prior to sending any environmental samples, coordinate and prioritize the samples with the recipient laboratory. The goal of laboratory analysis for environmental sampling is to determine the presence or absence and amount of radioactivity and to identify the nuclide(s). Depending on the location, there may be DOE, State, and Civil Support Team mobile laboratories available and ready to assist near the incident.</p> <p>Laboratory Information: Contact EPA/HQ-EOC (202-564-3850)</p> |
| Decontamination/Cleanup | <p>Caution: Resuspension during response activities, decon and cleanup activities below should be monitored, assessed and addressed, as needed, to protect public and worker safety.</p> <p>Contamination Control: Expedited vehicular decon will limit contaminant migration in support of emergency response, public relocation, mass care decisions and access in & around contaminated zones. Employ tacking agents to mitigate contaminant re-suspension in traffic areas; contain decon water, precipitation & surface water runoff - especially in high contamination area(s); perform gross decon of areas of highest contamination; & protect water supplies & treatment facilities.</p> <p>Cleanup Methods: Decon and cleanup methods and technologies decisions are based upon radionuclide, chemical form, activity, dose, substrate, land/property use, and public and worker exposure and cleanup goals. Radiation cleanup largely relies upon removal of contaminated substrate or material (soil excavation, cement scarification, roof and siding removal, building demolition, etc.).</p> <p>Cleanup of Surfaces: (Non-destructive or limited destruction methods). Particulate or liquid HEPA vacuuming when/if appropriate aqueous based washing or other surface treatments using chemicals, foam, acids, gels, strippable coating and fixing agents, etc. can reduce but not eliminate radioactivity and are more effective on non-porous surfaces. These surface decon methods can be used: (1) immediately open roadways and other critical infrastructure or key resources like subway stations, hospitals and fire equipment until more aggressive decontamination can occur; (2) where low levels exist and only minimal reduction is required; or (3) where there is only very limited long-term exposure like power substations.</p> <p>Use of Water: Minimize water usages to the extent practicable because of the difficulty in handling and disposing liquid radioactive waste.(See Waste Management Section below)</p> <p>Contact: For specific details contact the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and ask for EPA Consequence Management Assistance Team (CMAT).</p> |
| Waste Management | <p>Waste Management – An RDD may result in millions of tons of radiological contaminated solids and billions of gallons of radiological contaminated aqueous liquids. Most wastes (95 to 99%) will be Class A (the lowest level) low level radiological wastes (LLRW). There will be smaller amounts of Class B or Class C LLRW solid wastes. Commercial facilities exist in the U.S. for disposal of LLRW (solid wastes) including Energy Solutions, U.S. Ecology, and Waste Control Specialists. The cost and effort of transport of millions of tons of Class A LLRW over long distances may be prohibitive. Approval for disposal of lower volumes of Class B & C LLRW facilities needs the cooperation of the states and municipalities along the route. Collection and management of contaminated liquids will be problematic due to the limited storage and treatment capabilities.</p> <p>Waste Segregation and Staging – Initial waste streams will be mostly PPE, clothing and personal items from evacuees, and decon water but cleanup wastes will follow shortly and need to be segregated. Waste staging areas should be in the contaminated area; out of flood zones; and away from people, CI/KR, and locations targeted for early cleanup. If available, use land/sea boxes roll-offs, drums, totes, bins, etc. Or, cover with plastic and tarps to keep wastes dry and prevent contaminant spread. Fukushima wastes were containerized, placed over a bentonite (to adsorb cesium) and covered with a tarp. Higher activity wastes from the blast zone and areas immediately downwind of the blast zone (high contamination zone or HCZ) should be kept separate, sealed in appropriate containers, and stored in the HCZ. Waste staging and interim storage may continue for some time awaiting permanent disposal. Immediately begin the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management planning. Involve state waste management officials and contact EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR) thru EPA's EOC (202-564-3850) • Minimize aqueous liquid wastes: Caution: Contact the sewage authority before discharging to sanitary sewer. Use the minimum amount of wash down water; consider on-site water treatment technologies; use advanced surface cleaning technologies; and use dry cleanup technologies. • Consider permanent "onsite and in-state" solutions for Class A wastes. Most states' regulations have emergency waste approval and facility permitting provisions. |