



Fire Department Emergency Response Incidents Involving Radioactive Materials

Life-threatening emergencies always have priority over concerns involving radioactive contamination.

1. Restrict access to area. Keep all non-emergency personnel and vehicles at least 1000 feet from scene.
2. Approach scene with meters on and personnel dosimetry in place. Do not enter areas > 100 mR/hr unless necessary to treat injured personnel or prevent the spread of radioactive contamination.
3. Extinguish or control fires. Use DOT's Emergency Response Guidebook or other appropriate guidance.
4. Measure and minimize personnel exposure by using appropriate time, distance, and shielding methods.
5. Set up controlled area for emergency personnel at least 100 feet from the scene. Remain upwind if possible. Exposure levels in uncontrolled areas must be less than 2 mR/hr.
6. Do not handle or move radioactive materials. Cover or contain materials to prevent contamination from spreading. Do not decontaminate anything at the scene unless directed by state health personnel.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
24-Hour Emergency Hotline: 608-258-0099

7. Control access to and from controlled area if there is possible radioactive contamination. No unnecessary personnel or equipment shall enter controlled area.
 - A control point should be established to control access to and exits from the scene and should be monitored at all times. All personnel shall enter or leave the scene through the control point.
 - All material and equipment should remain within the controlled area.
 - Personnel should be surveyed for radioactive contamination before they leave the controlled area. If survey equipment is not available and personnel involved must leave the area, they should leave outer clothing and all equipment within the controlled area and change into fresh clothing when they pass through the control point. Personnel not surveyed should be surveyed as soon as possible. Contamination is considered to be readings of 100cpm > background or greater when measured with a Geiger-Mueller type instrument equipped with a “pancake” detector.
 - The names, SSNs, addresses, and survey results if available should be obtained from all personnel that have entered the controlled area.
8. All equipment at the scene shall be surveyed by state health personnel. The Radiation Protection Section will arrange for disposal of radioactive waste and evaluate exposure to all personnel involved with the incident.

