



EMS Treatment of Radioactively Contaminated Patients



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

1. **Park upwind** and outside controlled area set up by police or fire department personnel. If no controlled area is designated, park at least 100 feet upwind of accident scene.
2. **Don protective clothing.** Wear gloves, booties, and coveralls.
3. **Remove victim from immediate area** of suspected contamination when medically feasible. Remain within the controlled area.
4. **Provide emergency life-saving** care to victim.
5. **Notify hospital** as soon as possible to allow time to prepare receiving area.
6. **Remove victim's clothing**, if possible, and wrap victim in a clean sheet or similar covering.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

24-Hour Emergency Hotline: 608-258-0099

FLIP OVER

7. Prior to leaving scene, **remove outer protective clothing and change gloves.** Clothing and non-essential equipment should remain within the controlled area.
8. **Do not decontaminate personnel or equipment** unless state health personnel are present.
9. **Transport victim to hospital.** Change gloves after handling victim while en route.
10. **Transfer victim to clean hospital gurney.** Ambulance personnel, sheets, blankets, and equipment should remain with the ambulance. The equipment and personnel should remain in a controlled area.
11. **Ambulance personnel, equipment, and vehicle should not return to service** until checked for radioactive contamination by state health or qualified hospital personnel.
12. **No eating, drinking, or smoking in controlled areas.**

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Radiation Protection Section
608-267-4797**

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