

This provides North Zone Agencies guidelines for operating at a radiological emergency. For the most part, fire personnel will find themselves involved in a radiation emergency in an industrial or transportation setting. Whenever fire personnel come in contact with radioactives, exposure control is the most important step to take to provide protection against radiation exposure. This can be done in three ways:

- Regulate length of time of exposure (time).
- Maintain distance from the source (distance).
- Provide adequate shielding (shielding).

EQUIPMENT:

Agencies should use specified equipment as designed for radiological monitoring. When a radiological incident occurs, notification shall be made to HIRT/County Environmental Health.

CONTROL MEASURES:

- Isolate, deny entry, and make the necessary notification(s).
- Approach from upwind and stay back 500 feet. If a downwind approach has to be used, extend this distance to 1,000 feet.
- The primary objective, when responding to incidents involving radioactive transportation accidents, is the rescue of trapped and injured victims and the treatment of serious medical injuries. These issues take precedence over assessment and treatment of radiological hazards. In the event there are no medical problems, personnel should establish the necessary perimeters and stay clear of the area.
- In the event radioactive material is involved in a fire, it may be best to let them burn. Special attention must be given to the direction of smoke travel. Consultation with the HIRT/County Environmental Health is paramount in these types of situations.
- IN THE EVENT YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR ACTIONS AND NO LIFE IS IN DANGER, ISOLATE AND DENY ENTRY UNTIL HELP CAN ARRIVE.

MAJOR INCIDENTS:

Agencies should consider activating their EOC.

DECONTAMINATION:

Decontamination should follow standard protocols as outlined by the HIRT/County Environmental Health. When working with injured patients, and if their medical condition permits, patients should be monitored for contamination. If contamination is found, remove the contaminated clothing, but take no other decontamination measures. Wrap all contaminated victims in decontamination redress kits and transport them to a hospital for evaluation and

decontamination. If possible, only one ambulance should be used for contaminated patients, and the interior should be draped in plastic.

IF YOU SUSPECT OR KNOW YOUR PATIENT(S) MAY BE CONTAMINATED, ALERT THE EMERGENCY ROOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THEY CAN PREPARE A RADIATION AREA. THEY WILL NEED TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Number of contaminated patients.
- Medical status of patients.
- Extent and area of greatest contamination.
- Evidence of internal contamination.
- Type and source of radiation.
- How long the patient(s) were exposed.

NOTIFICATIONS:

In all cases involving radiation accidents, the following agencies and people should be notified for response:

- On-Call Battalion Chief/Duty Chief
- HIRT/County Environmental Health
- Law Enforcement