

PROTECTIVE ACTION GUIDES

I. INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIONS

- A. The following steps are to be followed at the earliest possible time by those individuals first arriving at the scene of the radiological incident. These steps are given as guidance for first responders who may not be thoroughly trained in response to radiological incidents. Those first responders arriving at the scene have primary responsibility to carry out the items listed below.
1. First aid takes priority over radiological concerns. Perform life-saving rescues and emergency first aid.
 - a. As soon as possible, move injured person(s) as far as practical from the immediate incident site, especially in case of fire.
 - b. If medical attention is indicated, assist in arrangements for medical assistance. The medical personnel should be informed that radiological contamination might exist on the victim(s) and/or their clothing.
 - c. Notify ambulance/rescue vehicle crews and hospitals as soon as it is realized that there are victims of a radiological transportation accident to provide them time to prepare to transport and receive possibly radiologically contaminated patients.
 2. Identify the hazard(s). If possible, obtain:
 - a. Shipping papers and manifests.
 - b. High/Low-level radioactive waste or material shipping permits and documents, if any.
 - c. Any other information from the driver, if possible.
 3. If there is a fire or danger of fire, summon assistance from the nearest fire department. Fire personnel should be cautioned that radioactive materials are involved. However, the fires must be put out immediately.
 4. Wear protective clothing. Keep upwind and upslope of the incident.

5. Keep to an absolute minimum, any contact with radioactive materials and suspected contaminated material.
 - a. If work connected with rescue or fire fighting must be done in the incident area, handle debris resulting from the incident with mechanical means to avoid contact with clothing.
 - b. Clothing and tools used at the scene should remain until they have been checked for contamination by a radiation health professional or the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health.
 - c. Do NOT attempt to move or clean up any material involved.
 6. Contact, as soon as possible:
 - a. The responsible political sub-division.
 - b. The local emergency management director/coordinator and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.
 7. Restrict the area around the incident.
 8. Detain all persons
 - a. Identify all persons who may have been exposed to a possible release of radioactive materials.
 - b. Detain all persons involved with the incident or potentially contaminated by the incident at the scene, except those requiring emergency medical evacuation.
 - c. Individuals will be monitored, decontaminated if necessary, and cleared after further medical treatment and released.
 - d. Record names, addresses, destinations, and telephone numbers from those individuals who cannot be persuaded to stay at the incident scene.
 9. Prohibit eating, drinking, or smoking in the incident area.
- B. It is important to remember that only essential activities are carried out in proximity to the incident prior to the arrival of, or consultation with qualified radiological health professionals.

- II. LOCAL COMMAND AND CONTROL – LOCAL RESPONDER (RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL SUB-DIVISION)
- A. The first responder on scene (incident commander) should make every effort to have dispatched to the incident scene someone trained and equipped for managing hazardous materials, including radiological incidents.
 - B. Establish facts as to what condition exists and carry out initial response actions as outlined in section VI.B.
 - 1. The incident commander (IC) must make an initial assessment of radiation hazards and give appropriate safety instructions to other emergency personnel arriving at the scene.
 - a. The incident commander must also act to protect the public from radiation exposure. If the initial assessment of radiation hazards indicates the public health and safety may be endangered, the incident commander should evaluate the need to evacuate the area.
 - b. The decision to evacuate should be a joint consensus of the incident commander and the responsible political sub-division authorities. The responsible political sub-division authorities will be responsible for warning and implementation of an evacuation.
 - 2. In the case of an accident involving a radioactive shipment, the incident commander may rely upon the recommendations provided by the truck driver if knowledgeable and assuming that he is not incapacitated.
 - 3. If a radiation measuring instrument is available (and the individual is trained in its use), readings should be taken to establish minimum safe working distances for identified emergency activities.
 - a. Dangerous areas should be cordoned off.
 - b. If an instrument is not available, the cordon should be located as far as practicable from any possible radiation source.
 - c. Persons should be kept up-wind as much as practical.
 - 4. The initial assessment should include a complete visual inspection made from a safe distance to determine if there may be a container breach. The results of the inspection must be reported to the responsible political sub-division before other activities beyond traffic control and immediate rescue are commenced.
 - 5. If radiological measuring instruments are not immediately available at the scene, contact the nearest sheriff's dispatch office for assistance in requesting these instruments from the responsible political sub-division's

emergency management director/coordinator, who may be able to locate the necessary instruments and obtain help from other persons qualified to advise the incident commander such as the Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT).

6. If the initial assessment indicates no container was breached, the incident may, in the judgment of the incident commander, be handled through normal hazardous material incident procedures; until it is known that there is a radiation hazard.
 7. Whether there is a container breach or not, the incident commander is to exercise discretion (based upon experience and training), in deciding to attempt rescue or to initiate fire-fighting efforts. As a general guide, a rescue that can be accomplished without requiring an extended period of time should be done without fear of serious radiation injury.
- C. Provide information between the accident scene, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), assisting state agencies and the dispatch center.
 - D. Coordinate on-scene actions.
 - E. Provide traffic control.
 - F. Establish entry and exit control procedures.
 - G. Detain possibly contaminated persons at the scene unless emergency medical treatment is needed.
 - H. Transfer responsibility to other authorities when appropriate.
 - I. Maintain appropriate records.
 - J. Control sightseers.

III. CONTAINMENT

- A. Contact the carrier and shipper
 1. Containment of, corrective response and the cleanup of radioactive releases are the responsibility of the carrier and the shipper of the material.
 2. Contact should be established as soon as possible to obtain the resources of the carrier and shipper to handle the emergency.

- B. Until representatives of the carrier and shipper arrive at the scene, containment of radioactive materials will be at the discretion of the responsible political sub-division based on advise of the on-scene assessment team (local or NHIT), and if requested, in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health.
 - 1. Depending on the type and quantity of material, the techniques used for containment will be chosen to fit the situation.
 - 2. Upon arrival of representatives of the carrier and shipper at the scene, containment of radioactive materials should be determined and accomplished by the carrier and shipper with input from the responsible political sub-division and upon request, from DHHS, Division of Public Health.
- C. The responsible political sub-division will take immediate action to establish decontamination sites for personnel and vehicles, and initiate evacuation procedures as required.

IV. MITIGATION AND RECOVERY

- A. Cleanup can be accomplished by the carrier and shipper or by a cleanup contractor.
 - 1. It is the responsibility of the responsible political sub-division, and upon request, the DHHS, Division of Public Health to determine the intentions of the responsible party in regards to cleanup.
 - 2. If the carrier and shipper decline to assume responsibility for cleanup arrangements, the responsible political sub-division, and upon request, in consultation with DHHS, Division of Public Health, and as required, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), shall contract with a cleanup contractor for mitigation and recovery.
 - 3. A local request for an emergency declaration must have been granted by, and prior approval must be obtained from the governor or the governor's authorized representative (GAR) for use of the Governor's Emergency Fund.
- B. The cleanup process should begin as soon after dangers to health, life, and property have been controlled. The responsible political sub-division, and

upon request, DHHS, Division of Public Health in coordination with DEQ, will determine appropriate cleanup actions to be taken.

- C. Upon request from the Responsible Political Sub-division DHHS, Division of Public Health with the assistance of DEQ will arrange for a cleanup inspection by qualified personnel.