

CDC Home



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 CDC 24/7: Saving lives, protecting people, reducing health costs

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## Emergency Preparedness and Response

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### RADIATION EMERGENCIES

# Information for Public Health Professionals

Public health professionals will play an important role in any radiation emergency. Key responsibilities (in addition to traditional public health functions) will include:

- Making [shelter-in-place](#) or [evacuation](#) recommendations
- Identifying people [contaminated](#) with radioactive materials or [exposed](#) to radiation ([population monitoring](#))
- Conducting or assisting with decontamination
- Developing criteria for entry and operations within the incident site

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To help state, local, and tribal public health professionals develop plans and response capacity for radiation emergencies, CDC has the following resources:

### Planning

- [Public Health Planning for Radiological/Nuclear Terrorism](#)
- [Population Monitoring in Radiation Emergencies](#)
- [Preparing for Population Monitoring/Decontamination](#)
- [Role of Public Health in a Nuclear/Radiological Incident](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors \(CRCPD\) Roundtable Materials](#)
- [Radiological/Nuclear Law Enforcement and Public Health Investigation Handbook](#) **NEW!**

### Guidelines & Recommendations

- [Population Monitoring Guide](#)
- [Guide for Handling Radioactive Contaminated Decedents](#)

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- [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)



**REPORT AN EMERGENCY**

[Guidance for Caring for Individuals Exposed to Polonium 210](#)  
Includes clinical guidance recommendations

- [Japan Incident - CDC Recommendations for Public Health Follow-Up of Travelers](#) 
- [Japan Incident - Epidemiology Form for Public Health Follow-Up of Travelers](#) 
- [Japan - CDC Revised Recommendation to Radiation Control Health Physics Staff 4 13 2011](#) 


## Training & Education

- [Screening People for External Contamination](#)
- [Preparing for Population Monitoring and Decontamination](#)
- [The Role of Public Health in a Nuclear/Radiological Incident](#)
- [Radiological Terrorism: A Tool Kit for Public Health Officials](#)
- [Psychological First Aid in Radiation Disasters](#) **NEW!**
- [Virtual Community Reception Center \(vCRC\)](#) **NEW!**  
This training program provides public health planners, staff, volunteers, and partners with an orientation to CRC operations and allows them to explore a virtual CRC. Continuing education credit is available for this product.
- [CRC Operations in Radiation Emergencies: An Overview for Public Health Personnel](#)  
This 13 minute training video provides an overview of community reception center (CRC) operations for public health personnel and response partners.

### **Radiological Terrorism: Tool Kit for Public Health Officials** **A free tool kit for planning and response**

- [Public Health Planning for Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism](#)
- [Population Monitoring in Radiation Emergencies: Guide for State and Local Public Health Planners](#)






- [Preparing for Radiological Population Monitoring and Decontamination](#)
  - [Screening People for External Contamination](#)
  - [The Role of Public Health in a Nuclear or Radiological Terrorist Incident](#)
  - [Guidelines for Handling Decedents Contaminated with Radioactive Materials](#)
- 
- [Radiological/Nuclear Law Enforcement and Public Health Investigation Handbook](#) **NEW!**



To order copies, please send an e-mail to [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636); TTY: (888) 232-6348.

## Related Links

- [Tool Kit for Clinicians](#)
- [Training for Handling Radioactive Decedents](#)
- [Summary of CDC Roundtable on Population Monitoring](#) 
- [Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation](#) 
- [Countermeasures/Treatment](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Protecting Yourself and Your Family](#)
- [Types of Radiation Emergencies](#)
- [Strategic National Stockpile](#)
- [Report on the NACCHO/CDC Workshop on Operating Public Shelters During a Radiation Emergency \(August 2010\)](#) 



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