

RADIATION RESPONSE For FIRE / RESCUE



How to Recognize and Respond to Incidents Involving Radiation in Georgia

Radiation incidents can occur anywhere.

There are techniques that you can use to protect yourself, your fellow responders and others.

Georgia state radiation experts can provide assistance during a radiological response.

Georgia Department of Natural
Resources
Environmental Protection Division

Georgia Emergency Management
Agency

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RADIATION RESPONSE For FIRE / RESCUE



Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

Atlanta, GA 30334

General Information During Business Hours

Radiation Programs—(404) 362-2675

rademergencynfo@dnr.state.ga.us



Georgia Emergency Management Agency

REPORT ALL INCIDENTS TO:

24 Hour Emergency Contact

1-800-241-4113 (within Georgia)

(404) 656-4863 (Atlanta or outside Georgia)

1-800-TRY-GEMA

(Use any one of these telephone numbers)

Have you encountered an incident involving radioactive materials?

- **SAFELY** approach from upwind, up-slope direction
- **ISOLATE AND SECURE** the scene
- **LIMIT TIME** of contact in the area containing radioactive materials
- **NOTIFY** Georgia State authorities
- **OBTAIN** information about the scene (see below)
- **INFORMATION** that should be reported includes:
 - Your name, address and contact telephone number
 - Location of encounter with driving directions
 - Description of any device or package and any labels found
 - Identity (name, address, contact telephone number) of person possessing a package or device
 - Vehicle description (make, model, color, license plate)

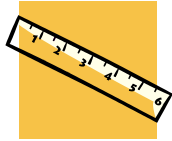


Responder Safety = TDS + PPE



Time

Minimize the time spent within the radiological area



Distance

Maximize the distance from the sources of radiation.



Shielding

Place shielding (e.g., vehicles, clothing) between you and the sources of radiation.



Personal Protective Equipment

Typical PPE used during radiological incidents may consist of, but is not limited to, the following:



- Firefighter turnout or bunker gear
- Disposable coveralls
- Jackets
- Shoe covers or boots



- Gloves
- Hoods
- Safety glasses
- Respiratory protection (e.g., SCBA, respirators)

Radiation Response Guidance

Safety

- Potential hazards when fire is involved with radioactive materials:
 - Melting or destruction of radioactive shielding or outer container
 - Burning of radioactive material, releasing particulates or gases
 - Explosions may embed radioactive debris in personnel or equipment
- Approach from upwind, upslope side
- Check for other hazards—chemicals, electricity, traffic, water
- Attempt to determine the types and quantities of radioactive materials

Isolate

- Set initial evacuation area of 500 meters/yards in all directions or other distance based on Emergency Response Guidebook

Notify

- Advise Medical Responders of injured and possible contaminated individuals
- Advise Georgia radiation authority
- Relinquish control of technical response upon arrival of Georgia Emergency Radiation Team

Scene Size-Up, Initial Actions

Radiological Incident Indicators

- Human senses cannot detect radiation
- Instruments can detect radiation (e.g., Geiger counters)
- Look for Radiation signs and labels at scene



Approaching the Scene

- **Safety**, first and always
- **Isolate**, and deny entry
- **Notify** Medical, State Radiation Authority

Immediate Actions

- Keep all uninvolved persons away from scene and reroute traffic as needed
- Detain all persons involved with incident or potentially contaminated at the scene
- Record names, addresses, phone numbers of those unable to remain at scene