

# **NCRP REPORT No. 165 RESPONDING TO A RADIOLOGICAL OR NUCLEAR TERRORISM INCIDENT: A GUIDE FOR DECISION MAKERS**

## **Appendix B Public Information Statements**

### **B.1 In the Event of a Radiological Dispersal Device**

#### **RDD: Public Information Statement No. 1**

(Can be used immediately after the explosion, as soon as the fire department arrives and detects radiation.)

There has been an explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of explosion].  
Fire and police personnel are on the scene. A radionuclide was spread by the explosion. People should stay away to facilitate response efforts and reduce the possibility of radiation exposure from this incident. We request that people avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We will provide a follow-up message on this issue in 1 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

#### **RDD: Public Information Statement No. 2**

(Can be used when additional information is available.)

There has been an explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of explosion].  
The fire, police and health departments are on the scene. A radionuclide was spread by the explosion. This was NOT a nuclear bomb. The highest levels of radionuclide contamination are in the area near the explosion, but we will be determining if the activity has traveled from the site of the explosion. Members of the general public should stay away to facilitate response efforts, and to reduce the possibility of radiation exposure from this incident.

Although we do not have evidence that radioactive material has spread beyond the area near the explosion, the wind may have carried small quantity away from the site of the explosion. As a precaution, people should stay indoors for their personal safety. If you are located [north, south, east, west] of \_\_\_\_\_, and within \_\_\_\_\_ miles of the explosion, you should close the doors and windows and turn off fans that bring in air from the outside. In-room fans that only recirculate air are OK to use. Air conditioning systems that do not bring in air from the outside may be operated. If you are in a large building [office, retail, industrial or other] you should move to the center of the building and the maintenance staff should put the system on “recirculation.”

To minimize your risk of radionuclide contamination, those who were at the \_\_\_\_\_, [explosion site] or outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time of the explosion] in the \_\_\_\_\_ area, are advised to change clothes and place the clothes you had been wearing in a plastic bag. As most of the contamination will be on your clothes, removing the

clothing reduces any contamination by ~80 to 90 % depending on the amount of the body covered by clothing. Place the plastic bag in a garage, or other remote location. If possible, take a shower with warm, not hot, water and gently wash your body and hair with ordinary soap and shampoo that does not contain a conditioner. Do not apply conditioner after you have washed your hair. Children, if home, should also be given a shower or bath under supervision of a parent or other adult. Again, we recommend you stay indoors. If we determine that you would be safer in another location, we will advise you where to go. You should not go to a hospital unless you were injured in the explosion, or have another medical emergency requiring immediate treatment, such as a heart attack.

If you have a pet that was outside, the pet can be washed as you normally would wash the pet, but inside, either in your shower or bathtub, or in a tub. Be sure to take a shower yourself, after you have washed the pet.

You may drink or bathe in the water from your faucet. You may eat the food in your house. Food that was outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time] today, within a few miles of \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site] may need to be avoided.

We request that members of the general public avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We also request that the media not fly over the scene so that airspace is available for emergency air responders, and to reduce air movement around the scene.

We will continue to monitor the area to establish the extent of radionuclide contamination to ensure the safety of members of the general public. You should listen to the radio or television for announcements; following the instructions from public officials will best ensure your safety. We will provide a follow-up message on this issue in 1 h or sooner if additional information becomes available.

This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

### **RDD: Public Information Statement No. 3**

(Can be delivered within a few hours of the incident.)

There has been an explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of explosion]. The fire, police and health departments are on the scene. A radionuclide was spread by the explosion. This was NOT a nuclear bomb. People should stay away to facilitate response efforts, and to reduce the possibility of radiation exposure from this incident. Over the last hour we have determined that some radioactive material was carried \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, east, west] of the explosion site by the wind. At this point, we do not know the extent to which the winds have carried the radioactive material, so we continue to advise people to stay indoors for their personal safety.

As a precaution, if you are located within \_\_\_\_\_ miles (\_\_\_\_\_ km) \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, east, west] of \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site], you should close the doors and windows and turn off fans that bring in air from the outside. In-room fans that only recirculate air are OK to use. Air conditioning systems that do not bring in air from the outside may be operated. If you were at \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site] when there was an explosion but have left and are not yet home, you may either continue home and shower there, or go to \_\_\_\_\_ [evacuation location(s)].

To minimize your risk of radionuclide contamination, those who were outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time of the explosion] and within \_\_\_\_\_ miles \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, west, east] of the \_\_\_\_\_ [location of the explosion] are advised to change clothes and place the clothes you had been wearing in a plastic bag, which will likely reduce any contamination by ~80 to 90 % depending on the amount of the body covered by clothing. If possible, take a shower with warm, not hot, water and gently wash your body and hair with ordinary soap and shampoo that does not contain a conditioner. Do not apply conditioner after you have washed your hair.

Again, we recommend you stay indoors. If we determine that you would be safer in another location, we will advise you where to go. You should not go to a hospital unless you were injured in the explosion or have a medical emergency requiring immediate treatment, such as a heart attack. Right now, the safest place for you is indoors.

You may drink or bathe in the water from your faucet. You may eat the food in your house. Food that was outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time] today, within a few miles of \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site] may need to be avoided.

We have received questions about using potassium iodide (KI) pills. KI is not useful for the radionuclide used in this explosion and will not provide protection from radiation. Therefore, we do not advise the use of KI pills. Sheltering, or evacuation if public officials make that recommendation, provides the best protection.

We request that members of the general public avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We also request that the media not fly over the scene so that airspace is available for emergency air responders, and to reduce air movement around the scene.

We will continue to monitor the area to establish the extent of radionuclide contamination to ensure safety of members of the general public. We will provide a follow-up message on this issue in 1 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This followup message will be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

#### **RDD: Public Information Statement No. 4**

(Can be used after the presence of radioactive material has been confirmed and when recommending evacuation of designated areas.)

There was an explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of the explosion]. The fire, police and health departments are on the scene. A radionuclide was spread by the explosion. This was NOT a nuclear bomb.

Although the highest levels of radionuclide contamination are in the area near the explosion, radioactive material was carried by the wind in a \_\_\_\_\_ [northern, southern, eastern, western] direction from the site of the explosion. As a precaution, we are evacuating residents closer than \_\_\_\_\_ mile \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, east, west] of the explosion site. That is, those within the area north of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.], south of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.], east of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.] and west of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.]. These residents should report to \_\_\_\_\_ [name the evacuation center(s) and give address(es)], where staff will determine if radionuclide contamination is present and provide additional decontamination if needed. ONLY the individuals within this designated area are advised to evacuate. If we determine that additional evacuations are advisable, you will be told when and where to go. If you do not have transportation, please call XXX-XXX-XXXX, and you will be given more instructions.

As a precaution, if you are located within \_\_\_\_\_ miles \_\_\_\_\_ [compass direction] of the \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site], you should continue to stay indoors, keep the doors and windows closed and turn off fans that bring in air from the outside. In-room fans that only recirculate air are OK to use. Air conditioning systems that do not bring in air from the outside may be operated. You may drink or bathe in the water from your faucet. You may eat the food in your house. Food that was outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time] yesterday may need to be avoided.

We have received questions about using potassium iodide (KI) pills. KI is not useful for the radionuclide used in this explosion. Therefore, we do not advise the use of KI pills. (This paragraph may not be needed by day two.)

We request people avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We also request the media not fly over the scene so that airspace is available for emergency air responders, and to reduce air movement around the scene.

We will continue to monitor the area to establish the extent of radionuclide contamination to ensure the safety of members of the general public. We will provide a follow-up message in 3 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

## **B.2 In the Event of an Improvised Nuclear Device**

### **IND: Public Information Statement No. 1**

(Can be used immediately after the explosion, as soon as the fire department arrives and detects radiation and it appears to have been a nuclear terrorism incident.)

There has been an explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of detonation]. Fire and police personnel are responding. Because of the size and extent of the explosion, and the presence of significant radiation levels, this may have been a nuclear explosion, releasing large quantity of radioactive material. People should stay away to facilitate response efforts and reduce the possibility of radiation exposure from this incident. If you are outside, go inside the nearest stable building. If you are inside a building, you should stay inside. If the building has a basement, you should go to the lowest level. If the building does not have a basement, you should get as close as possible to the center of the building and go up two or three floors if it is a multistory building.

We request that people avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We will provide a follow-up message on this issue in 1 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

### **IND: Public Information Statement No. 2**

(Can be used when additional information is available.)

There has been a nuclear explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of the detonation].

The fire, police and health departments are assisting injured people. The highest levels of radionuclide contamination are near the explosion, and downwind from the explosion, going from the \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, east, west] to the \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, east, west]. People should stay away from this area to allow response efforts to take place, and to reduce the possibility of radiation exposure from the incident. If you are outside, you should go to the nearest stable building. The building may have windows that have been blown out, but if that appears to be the only damage and the building appears to be structurally sound, go inside the building if no other building is nearby that still has windows. If you are inside a building, you should stay inside. If the building has a basement, go to the lowest level. If the building does not have a basement, you should get as close as possible to the center of the building and go up two or three floors if it is a multistory building. You need to stay in this location unless advised differently by authorities.

The radiation levels are expected to significantly decrease over the next 24 to 48 h. You will be endangering yourself and others if you try to leave the building you are in. We understand how difficult this will be, but you will endanger your children's lives, as well as your own, if you try to retrieve your children from school. Schools have prepared for taking care of the children, and children are safest staying in their schools. We also understand your desire to return home, and to gather your family. But taking that action could endanger everyone's lives. Please stay where you are. We will provide further instructions on reuniting with your family as quickly as we can.

Even if you are not downwind and do not appear to have any structural damage in your location, stay indoors for your personal safety. You should close the doors and windows and turn off fans that bring in air from the outside. In-room fans that only recirculate air are OK to use. Air conditioning systems that do not bring in air from the outside may be operated.

130 / APPENDIX B

To minimize your risk of radionuclide contamination, people who were near the \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site], or outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time of the explosion] in the potentially-contaminated area, are advised to change clothes and place the clothes you had been wearing in a plastic bag. Because most of the contamination will be on your clothes, removing your clothing reduces any contamination by ~80 to 90 %. Place the plastic bag in a garage or other remote location. If possible, take a shower with warm, not hot, water and gently wash your body and hair with ordinary soap and shampoo that does not contain a conditioner. Do not apply conditioner after you have washed your hair. You should stay indoors.

If we determine that you would be safer in another location, we will advise you where to go. You should not go to a hospital unless you were injured in the explosion, or have another medical emergency requiring immediate treatment, such as a heart attack.

You may drink or bathe in the water from your faucet. You may eat the food in your house. Do not eat food or water that has been outside.

We request that people avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We also request that the media not fly over the scene so that airspace is available for emergency air responders, and to reduce air movement around the scene.

We will continue to respond and monitor the area to establish the extent of radionuclide contamination and structural damage to ensure the safety of members of the general public. We will provide an update in 1 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

IND: Public Information Statement No. 3

(Can be delivered within a few hours of the incident.)

There has been a nuclear explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of detonation]. The fire, police and health departments are implementing their emergency-response plans. People should stay away to facilitate response efforts, and to reduce their radiation exposure from this incident.

We have determined that a radionuclide was carried \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, west or east; name neighborhoods, cities, towns, or other locations in addition to the compass direction, if possible]

of the explosion site by the wind. At this point, we do not know the extent to which the winds have carried the radioactive material, so we continue to advise people to stay indoors for their own, B.2 IN THE EVENT OF AN IMPROVISED NUCLEAR DEVICE / 131

and others, safety. If you are located within \_\_\_\_\_ miles (\_\_\_\_\_ km) \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site], you should close the doors and windows and turn off fans that bring in air from the outside. In-room fans that only recirculate air are OK to use. Air conditioning systems that do not bring in air from the outside may be operated. This applies to a residential home, not an office building. If you were outside and saw the explosion and are not yet home, you may either continue home and shower there, or go to one of the following \_\_\_\_\_ [name the evacuation center(s) and give address(es)].

To minimize your risk of radionuclide contamination, people who were outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time of the explosion] and within \_\_\_\_\_ miles [north, south, east, west] of the \_\_\_\_\_ [location of the explosion] should change clothes and place the clothes you were wearing in a plastic bag, which will likely reduce any contamination by ~80 to 90 % depending on the amount of the body covered by clothing. If possible, take a shower with warm, not hot, water and gently wash your body and hair with ordinary soap and shampoo. Children, if home, should also be given a shower or bath under supervision of a parent or other adult. Again, we recommend you stay indoors. If we determine that you would be safer in another location, we will advise you where to go. You should not go to a hospital unless you were injured in the explosion, or have a medical emergency requiring immediate treatment, such as a heart attack. Right now, the safest place for you is indoors.

You may drink or bathe in the water from your faucet. You may eat the food in your house. Food that was outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time] today, within a few miles of \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site] may need to be avoided.

We have received questions about using potassium iodide (KI) pills. KI will only reduce the radiation dose to one organ, the thyroid, and should be taken as soon as possible after being exposed, as the KI pills' effectiveness decreases rapidly. Begin taking KI within the first hour or two after the explosion, or as soon as you can. Continue taking KI until told it is OK to stop. The dose of KI varies according to size in children and age in adults, and also is different for pregnant women.

We request that people avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We also request that the media not fly over the scene so that airspace is available for emergency air responders, and to reduce air movement around the scene.

We will continue to monitor the area to establish the extent of damage and radionuclide contamination to ensure the safety of  
132 / APPENDIX B

members of the general public. We will provide a follow-up message on this issue in 1 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

IND: Public Information Statement No. 4

(Can be used when evacuation of designated areas is recommended.)

There was a nuclear explosion at \_\_\_\_\_ [site of the detonation]. The fire, police and health departments have activated emergency plans. Although the highest levels of radionuclide contamination are within about a mile radius from the explosion, radioactive material was carried by the wind in a \_\_\_\_\_ [northern, southern, eastern, western] direction from the site of the explosion. We are evacuating residents closer than \_\_\_\_\_ mile \_\_\_\_\_ [north, south, east, west] of the explosion site. That is, those within the area north of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.], \_\_\_\_\_ south of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.], east of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.], and west of \_\_\_\_\_ [street, avenue, etc.]. These residents may report to \_\_\_\_\_ [name the evacuation center(s) and give address(es)], where staff will be onsite to determine if contamination is present, and provide additional decontamination if needed. ONLY the individuals within this designated area are advised to evacuate. If we determine that additional evacuations are advisable, you will be told where to go.

As a precaution, if you are located within \_\_\_\_\_ miles \_\_\_\_\_ [compass direction] of the \_\_\_\_\_ [explosion site], you should continue to stay indoors, keep the doors and windows closed and turn off fans that bring in air from the outside. In-room fans that only recirculate air are OK to use. Air conditioning systems that do not bring in air from the outside may be operated. You may drink or bathe in the water from your faucet. You may eat the food in your house. Food that was outdoors since \_\_\_\_\_ [time] yesterday may need to be avoided.

We have received questions about using potassium iodide (KI) pills. KI will only reduce the radiation dose to one organ, the thyroid, and should be taken as soon as possible after the exposure, as KI pills' effectiveness decreases rapidly. Begin taking KI within the first hour or two after the explosion, or as soon as you can. Continue taking KI until told it is OK to stop. The dose of KI varies according to size in children and age in adults, and also is different for pregnant women.

**B.2 IN THE EVENT OF AN IMPROVISED NUCLEAR DEVICE / 133**

We request people avoid using telephones, including cell phones,



to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We also request the media not fly over the scene so that airspace is available for emergency air responders, and to reduce air movement around the scene.

We will continue to monitor the area to establish the extent of radionuclide contamination to ensure safety of members of the general public. We will provide a follow-up message in 3 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].