

## **Instructions No. 1: Public Waiting for Decontamination**

You may have been exposed to radioactive materials (“dust”). The dust from the explosion may have gotten on your clothes or body. To protect your health, you may be asked to go to a place at the incident called a decontamination station at a place called a reception center to clean off. Do not panic; your health is not in immediate danger. Follow these directions to prepare for the reception center:

Step 1: Go to the designated decontamination area or reception center, as directed.

Step 2: Do not touch your face or put anything into your mouth.

Step 3: Enter the decontamination area or reception center and follow the instructions from the staff. You will likely be asked to stand for a screening (survey) of yourself with clothing. Workers will ask you questions about necessary personal information; please provide answers as best as you can.

Step 4: After you are screened, you will be directed to leave if minimal or no radioactive dust is present. If radioactive dust is found, you will be directed to the wash area or you may be sent home with instructions on how to clean yourself. This is called decontamination.

Step 5: If you are directed to enter the wash area, you will be segregated with individuals of the same gender. To the extent possible, families will be kept together through the decontamination process. Prepare to remove your outer clothes behind a privacy curtain. If radioactive dust is on your clothes, removing them will reduce the dust and decrease the chance that you breathe in or ingest the dust. Quick removal of outer clothing will also reduce the length of time that you are exposed to radiation. When removing the clothing be careful of any clothing that has to be pulled over the head. Try to either cut the clothing off or prevent the outside from coming in contact with the nose and mouth area. You may also hold your breath while carefully pulling the clothing over your head.

Step 6: You will be provided with plastic bags. Place all of your clothing in one bag. You can wash most valuables. Anything that is plastic (including credit cards) or metal, identification, jewelry, and keys are easily washed off. Other types of materials can be wiped off carefully, like money, wallets, and purses. If something cannot be washed then place them in a separate plastic bag from your clothes and seal it. You may be asked to double bag your belongings to minimize the potential for bag breakage. You will be instructed on how to handle these items at a later time when more is known about the hazards of the radioactive dust.

Step 7: Pass through the wash area.

Step 8: When you reach the end of the wash station you will be given clothing to put on and directed to the final staging area. Do not leave without your valuables, even if they are not clean.

(Adapted from CRCPD 2006)