

Radiological Emergency Preparedness

Restricted Zone Guide for Emergency Managers

Purpose of this Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is designed to assist in the planning for Restricted Zones following an incident at a nuclear generating plant, helping to coordinate state and local activities. This fact sheet does not supersede any plans, procedures, or guidelines currently in use.

Restricted Zones are established to protect people from chronic exposure to low-level radiation. Access must be controlled to these areas where the population has been evacuated or relocated.

Access is controlled to these areas in order to protect the public in contaminated areas, preventing long term exposure to radiation. The EPA Protective Action Guidelines (PAGs) are used to establish threshold radiation levels for this decision:

- First-year exposure: 2 rem or higher total effective dose equivalent (TEDE – the whole body internal and external dose).
- Any single year following the first year: 0.5 rem TEDE or higher.
- Cumulative dose over 50 years: 5 rem TEDE or greater.

Areas where these contamination levels are exceeded must be designated as Restricted Zones until a combination of remediation efforts and natural radioactive decay allow for safe long-term residency. Radiation monitoring will be ongoing in any area declared a Restricted Zone.

Considerations for Implementation of Restricted Zones

The following guidance may be used to develop an initial Restricted Zone plan:

- Designate traffic control points and staffing to prevent and control entry (*State Patrol, MnDOT, County*).
- Monitor the situation and maintain security inside the Restricted Zone and on its boundaries (*State Patrol*).
- Discuss availability of the National Guard to assist (*State, Military Affairs*).

Re-Entry into a Restricted Zone is limited to essential personnel only.

- All persons entering a Restricted Zone must be registered, briefed on radiation exposure, and issued dosimetry. In some cases a radiation safety escort may be required (*State, County*).
- All persons leaving a Restricted Zone will need to be monitored for radiological contamination, and may need to be decontaminated. Existing facilities may be used, or new ones established. Transportation to these sites will be provided (*County*).

