

# Radiological Emergency Preparedness

## Re-entry Guide for Emergency Managers

### Purpose of the Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is designed to assist in planning for re-entry into a Restricted Zone following an accident at a nuclear generating plant. This fact sheet does not supersede any plans, procedures, or guidelines currently in use.

**Re-Entry** is an approved, temporary entry inside a Restricted Zone for essential purpose. These activities may include:

- Protection of Valuable Infrastructure
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Fighting
- Tending Livestock and Exhibition Animals
- Control of Industrial Processes and Public Utilities
- Animal Rescue/Control

### Priorities for Re-entry

The priority activities for re-entry are

- Life Safety
- Incident stabilization
- Animal care
- Critical infrastructure & services
- Recovery

The Counties have the primary responsibility for implementation and coordination of Re-Entry. This includes:

- Establishing locations where Re-entry access control occurs.
- Coordinating requests for Re-entry
- Provides radiological briefings, dosimetry, KI and just in time training for people re-entering.
- Providing escorts for people re-entering as needed.

**All persons re-entering an evacuated or restricted zone are considered emergency workers and are to be treated as emergency workers for exposure control and personal protection concerns.**

### Implementation of Re-entry

The implementation of Re-entry starts as soon as an evacuation area is established and access to the area is controlled. Re-entry will continue for an extended period of time and will include entry into the Restricted Area once established.

### Initial Re-entry

- Radiological Monitoring Teams will be the first people assigned to work in evacuated or restricted areas. Monitoring teams have protocols for entering evacuated or restricted areas and their own exposure control procedures.
- Access to the evacuated or restricted areas by other people will be coordinated with the individual County Radiological Officer (RO).
  - Sherburne County 763-441-7302
  - Wright County 763-682-5578
  - Dakota County 651-437-7621
  - Goodhue County 651-267-2773
- Re-entry into the evacuated area must be permitted for essential purposes and people entering the evacuated area should (recommended) have a security type escort to ensure they only go to the location indicated in Re-entry request.
- Re-entry into the evacuated area outside and upwind of the plume footprint (actual or projected) will not have a radiological exposure stay time projections since there is



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no contamination there. Stay time should be based on the time needed to complete the task and should not exceed a day (8-hour scheduled work shift). Longer stay times may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

- Re-entry into an area inside, around or downwind of a plume footprint (actual or projected) should initially be limited to life safety purposes, persons entering must be escorted and should have projected stay times based on actual or projected contamination levels.
- Everyone entering an evacuated or restricted area will be considered as an emergency worker and treated as such.

### Sustained Re-Entry

More refined protocols and stay time calculations will be provided to the counties from the SEOC as more detailed contamination monitoring, sampling and analysis is completed.

- Radiological Monitoring Teams will be assigned to work in the evacuated or restricted areas. Monitoring teams have protocols for entering evacuated or restricted areas and their own exposure control procedures.
- Re-entry into the evacuated area must be permitted for essential purposes and people entering the evacuated area should (recommended) have a security type escort to ensure they only go to the location indicated in Re-entry request.
- Re-entry into the evacuated area outside the plume footprint (actual footprint based on monitoring) should not require a radiological exposure stay time projection or a radiological escort since there is no contamination indicated in that area. Stay time should be based on the time needed to complete the task and not exceed a day (8-

hour scheduled work shift). Longer stay times may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

- Re-entry into an area inside and around a plume footprint (validated by monitoring and sampling) should be permitted for essential purposes. Persons entering may be escorted and should have projected stay times based on actual contamination levels.

### Considerations for the Implementation of Re-Entry Protocols

The Counties must implement protocols and procedures to authorize and track the temporary re-entry.

The following guidance may be used in developing the Re-Entry plan:

- Designate access control points for Re-entry in each county and communicate that information to the state.
- Implement a system for receiving requests for re-entry and communicate that information to the state.
- Prioritize Re-Entry requests.
- Register all persons entering re-entering a Restricted Zone, brief them on radiation exposure and safety, and issue and train them in the use of dosimetry and KI.
- Implement a system to track stay times and dose per individual.
- Provide monitoring and decontamination services at a designated site upon completion of Re-Entry.
- Communicate any complicating factors in implementing a Re-Entry program (timeline for implementation, resource requirements, volume of requests) to the state.

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The state will provide general guidance on stay times and exposure control for Re-entry by geographic area based on contamination levels as soon as detailed monitoring and sampling information is available.

### County considerations for those who Re-Enter

- The Counties must designate the point or points for controlled access to the contaminated area.
- Anyone who re-enters a Restricted Zone will be exposed to low levels of radiation. There will be no immediate ill effects as a result of this. Following the procedures given to you by the Counties will keep your dose well below established EPA guidelines.
- Anyone re-entering will be issued and trained in the use of dosimetry. It is important this information is watched closely and recorded.
- Persons re-entering a contaminated area will be assigned a stay time for how long it is safe to stay in the Restricted Zone, an 8-hour shift or a maximum dose exposure of 1000 milliRem (turn back limit) which ever occurs first. The county must track the stay time and dose exposure limits closely.
- Those re-entering may be instructed to wear protective garments, including gloves, shoe covers, and coveralls. It is important to wear these as instructed by a radiation control specialist.
- Avoid rubbing your face with a gloved hand, eating, drinking, or smoking while within the Restricted Zone; these activities increase your risk of internal contamination.
- Persons leaving the Restricted Zone will be transported and monitored for contamination, and may need decontamination, before being released.

### Discussion questions for Re-Entry

- How are requests for Re-Entry received and processed?
- How does the county authorize re-entry?
- When is re-entry permitted?
- Are there any areas where re-entry is not allowed? Why?
- What are the procedures to control access to the restricted areas?
- How will you staff access control on a long term basis?
- When would the “public” be allowed to re-enter? For what purposes?
- Is there a special permit or identification for re-entry?
- How do you track dose limits for people re-entering?
- How would you control possible spread of contamination?
- Would you anticipate increased criminal activity?
- Where is decontamination and monitoring being done once the Emergency Worker Decontamination facilities are closed?
- How do you prioritize who gets to re-enter and when?