THE NUCLEAR RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENT ANNEX
AND THE
NUCLEAR RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENT TASKFORCE

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Summary

The Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex provides hazard-specific supplemental information to the Response and Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plans. Federal interagency partners can respond in a lead role or in support to state and local governments to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs when there is a threat of or an actual nuclear/radiological incident. The annex also establishes operational coordination and information sharing with the Prevention Mission Area when federal crimes of terrorism involving nuclear/radioactive material are involved to ensure response and prevention activities and decisions from the regional to the national level are informed and coordinated. The annex describes:

- The process and organizational constructs that federal agencies will use for responding to nuclear/radiological incidents.
- How federal interagency partners will respond to nuclear/radiological incidents and provide recovery support under federal authorities.
- Information that is specific and unique to federal nuclear/radiological incident response and recovery processes, assets, resources, and teams.
- Mechanisms and structures for information sharing and coordination with the Prevention Mission Area involving suspected terrorist incidents.

The annex applies to federal responses to nuclear/radiological incidents, regardless of size or complexity, and addresses deliberate attacks, inadvertent incidents, and international incidents that may affect the United States. Such incidents may involve the following:

- Improvised Nuclear Device,
- Radiological Dispersal Device,
- Radiation Exposure Device,
- U.S. nuclear facilities,
- Research and test reactors,
- Lost/found/orphaned radioactive material sources,
- Transportation incidents involving radioactive materials,
- Domestic nuclear weapons accidents, and
- International incidents involving nuclear or radioactive material that impact or threaten to impact the United States.
The annex applies when the Federal Government responds to conduct Response and Recovery Mission Area activities pursuant to federal authorities. The level of federal response and recovery support to a specific incident is based on numerous factors including the ability of state and local government officials to respond; Federal agencies operational agreements with State entities; the type, amount, and custody of (or authority over) radioactive material involved, the extent of the impact or anticipated impact on the public and environment, and the size of the affected area. For those incidents involving suspected federal crimes of terrorism, the Federal Government will respond, lead, and coordinate related law enforcement and investigative activities to resolve threats and prevent follow on attacks.

Nuclear Radiological Incident Taskforce

A significant radiological/nuclear (RN) incident will require RN subject matter experts (SMEs) to provide guidance for all levels of response/recovery operations. The Nuclear Radiological Incident Annex (NRIA) established the Nuclear Radiological Incident Task Force (NRITF) to help fulfill a need for RN incident support SMEs at the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). The NRITF deploys to the NRCC to provide RN subject matter expertise in support of national level incident support planning in order to provide whole community response/recovery core capability delivery following a RN incident. The NRITF utilizes RN SMEs from several federal departments/agencies (D/As) who possess an understanding of the RN capabilities/roles of their D/As.

As a planning support task force, the NRITF does not deploy to the scene of the incident, but rather acts as a hub for SME support within the NRCC. The NRITF is scalable and adaptable to the size of the incident and is able to fully or partially activate as the needs of the National Response Coordination Staff (NRCS) require. Serving as a planning support task force, the NRITF also does not exercise command/control authority over incident response personnel, but instead serves only in an advisory capacity. This task force will provide coordination between the unique aspects of a RN national level response, and does not duplicate or replace the responsibilities of any Emergency Support Functions (ESF) or existing technical RN SME teams identified in the NRIA.

Representing their department/agency, members of the NRITF play an important role in the NRCC as incident support SMEs who address the critical information requirements, key issues, and challenges as outlined in the NRIA. This knowledge allows the NRCC, during an RN incident, to appropriately characterize the RN impacts of an incident, coordinate the dissemination of resources, and provide national-level planning and policy guidance.
References
1. Atomic Energy Act of 1954
2. Clean Water Act
3. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
4. Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act
5. Executive Order 12656 of November 18, 1988
6. Federal Crimes of Terrorism
8. National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
9. Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970
10. Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act
11. Price-Anderson Act
12. Prohibited Transactions Involving Nuclear Materials
13. Public Health Service Act
14. Requests for Military Assistance
16. Restoration Act
17. Section 591-592 of Title 6 United States Code
18. Title 50, U.S. Code, War and National Defense
19. HSPD-5: Management of Domestic Incidents
20. HSPD-7: Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection
21. HSPD-8: National Preparedness
22. HSPD-18: Medical Countermeasures Against Weapons of Mass Destruction
24. NSPD-43/HSPD-14: Domestic Nuclear Detection
25. NSPD-46/HSPD-15: Classified
26. NSPD-51/HSPD-20: National Continuity Policy