

Dealing with Discovered Radioactive Material: Contingencies and Resources¹

Does it belong there?	Yes → No ↓	Radioactive materials are widely used and frequently transported, often without requirement of label, marking or shipping papers. Certain materials are authorized for burial in municipal waste or on a licensee's property.
Do you know whose it is?		Have them recover it, if they can do so safely.
Call the radiation control authority for the state, who will address the following:		The state emergency communications center can identify Rad. control; "Contacts for Rad. Assistance," lists state and national resources. ²
Are people evidently contaminated, or severely exposed to radiation?		Verify whether they had recent nuclear medicine, or wear clothing that is contaminated by radon, else call REAC/TS for guidance (listed in "CRCPD Contacts for Radiological Assistance").
Must radioactivity be tracked down, or contamination controlled and mapped?		State police, emergency Mgt. and radiation control are listed in the CRCPD "Directory of State Agencies Involved with Transportation," as are DOE Rad. Assistance and EPA resources. CRCPD lists "Services for Aerial Measurement."
Must Rad. Mat. be moved to a better location?		A Govt. vehicle & staff may be used, see DOT 49 CFR 177.823. "Notes on Exemption Use." lists U.S., Canada, Mexico Transp. authorities.
If it was scrap or trash in transportation,		DOT exemptions through CRCPD may be used for highway or rail; see "Notes on Scope and Use..." and "Authorities Registered to Approve.."
Is a local licensee qualified and available? or a commercial service?		Check license files and HPS membership list, and CRCPD's lists of "Broker and Processor Services" and "Site Investigation and Decon Firms" (having an R.M. Lic.) who may have staff in the area.
Can the radiation control staff deal with it?		Supporting info and guidance are available by phone from federal services listed in CRCPD "Contacts for Rad. Assistance."
Enlist DOE Radiological Assistance.		They will move the material to suitable interim storage. See "Contacts for Radiological Assistance."
Options for disposition of radioactive material:		
Is the radioactivity decaying quickly?		Hold it locally until it can be disposed of as non-radioactive.
Can the owner be identified by shipping papers, licensing records, or manufacturer's records?		Have them deal with it, if they can do so safely. For help tracing owner, call NRC SS&D, 301/415-5847 or -5868, dab@nrc.gov .
Can a person be found to accept the material for use?		Ask the firms on CRCPD list of "Radioactive Materials Accepted." Also request acceptance by a manufacturer of similar items; call CRCPD for new or unpublished options. Shop around.
Is disposal an option?		CRCPD "Rad. Waste Disposal Sites" has contacts and acceptance limits.
Is long term storage appropriate?		Ask brokers about storage services.
Is the material Greater-than-Class-C?		Request DOE acceptance, http://osrp.lanl.gov
Else		Ask NRC Region office to request "Emergency Accept." by DOE or EPA region office for removal under CERCLA or Superfund.

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If radioactive contamination remains:	CRCPD lists "Radioassay Services" (note 'Hot samples').
Can the owner of the material deal with it? Or, can the property owner deal with it? Or, will a state agency fund the cleanup?	See CRCPD lists of "Broker-Processors," for small jobs, or the "Site Investigation and Decon Firms" for larger jobs.
Else,	Apply to the EPA regional office for cleanup.
Is the site ready for the compliance survey by radiation control staff?	For assistance with projected dose, CRCPD lists "Developers of Computer Codes for Radiation Dose from Residual Radioactivity."
May the site be released for unrestricted use?	Send a report to the NRC regional office if re. licensed AEA material, else to the National Response Center; and to DOT RSPA DHM-63 Wash. DC 20590 if re. a transportation accident, and to FAA regional office if re. air transport.

¹Notes of Nov. 2002 Please suggest improvements to Terry Devine by fax to 502/223-7026 or Ph. 502/227-4543

²The referenced directories and notes are published periodically and most are maintained web site www.crcpd.org Free Documents.

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