

Annex O: Radiological Incidents

In a radiation emergency, such as a nuclear power plant accident, a nuclear detonation, or the explosion of a radiological dispersal device (“dirty bomb”), you will want to get inside a building and take shelter instead of leaving. The walls of a building can block harmful radiation, the best place to go for protection is an interior room away from all windows, or an underground/basement level of a structure.

Radioactive materials become weaker over time, staying inside for at least 24 hours can protect you and your family until it is safe to leave the area. **Remember: Get Inside, Stay Inside, and Stay Tuned.**

With either a dirty bomb or a nuclear power plant incident, if necessary, law enforcement or emergency management (state, county or local) will ask for people to either shelter-in-place or evacuate.

Reporting requirements and contact information

Radiological incidents involve radioactive or nuclear material and involve several special considerations. Local emergency response systems should be activated. Notification should immediately include the building maintenance personnel and the LTC facilities/agencies administration, and prompt communication with the local and state health departments. Be sure to follow local guidelines. Each LTC facility/agency should include a list containing the following telephone notification numbers in its readiness plan:

Internal Contacts:

- Building Maintenance:
- Administration/Public Affairs:

External Contacts (see Appendix N for additional contacts):

- Local Health Department:
 - [Find a local health department or community health board - Minnesota Dept. of Health](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/connect/findlph.html)
- Local Emergency Manager:
 - [HSEM Regional Program Coordinators | Minnesota Department of Public Safety](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/contact-hsem/hsem-rpc)
- Minnesota Department of Health: 651-201-5735
 - MDH Radiation Unit: 651-201-4545
 - MDH Radioactive Materials: 651-201-4400
- Minnesota Duty Officer: (651) 649-5451

See Appendix C.2 for all internal and external contacts

Radiological dispersal device

A radiological dispersal device (RDD) also known as a dirty bomb, combines a conventional explosive, such as dynamite, with radioactive material. A dirty bomb is intended to cause public panic in addition to loss of life and destruction. In most instances, the conventional explosive is more immediately lethal than the radioactive material it contains. At the levels created by most probable sources, not enough radiation would be present in a dirty bomb to kill people or cause severe illness.

However, certain other radioactive materials, dispersed in the air, could contaminate up to several city blocks, creating fear and possibly panic and requiring potentially costly cleanup. Prompt, accurate, non-emotional public information might prevent panic sought by terrorists.

Initial Actions

RAPID RESPONSE CHECKLIST	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Move all staff, residents, and visitors indoors and stay inside.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Close all vents, doors and windows.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seal gaps with wet towels, plastic, waxed paper, aluminum wrap or duct tape.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turn off fans, air conditioning, furnaces, fireplaces and other systems that draw in outside air.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use electrical sources for heating.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stay in a below-ground basement if possible (they provide the best shelter).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Otherwise, stay in an above-ground interior rooms, away from windows.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't leave the building or evacuate unless told to do so.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Post a "NOTIFIED" sign on the front door for authorities to see</i>

Nuclear Power Plants

Facilities or agencies within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant should have a plan for nuclear power plant disaster. MN has two Nuclear Power Plants, located in Monticello and Prairie Island. The following maps on the MN Homeland Securing and Emergency Management website can be used to identify if your facility/agency is within 50 miles of a power plant.

Monticello

- Facility/agency located within 10 miles: Yes or No [HSEM_M_Basemap_2024_09_25.pdf](https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_M_Basemap_2024_09_25.pdf) (https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_M_Basemap_2024_09_25.pdf)
- Facility/agency located within 50 miles: Yes or No [HSEM_M_Ingestmap_2024_09_25.pdf](https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_M_Ingestmap_2024_09_25.pdf) (https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_M_Ingestmap_2024_09_25.pdf)

Prairie Island

- Facility/agency located within 10 miles: Yes or No [HSEM_Basemap_2024_09_25.pdf](https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_Basemap_2024_09_25.pdf)
(https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_Basemap_2024_09_25.pdf)
- Facility/agency located within 50 miles: Yes or No [HSEM_IngestMap_2024_09_25.pdf](https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_IngestMap_2024_09_25.pdf)
(https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.dps.mn.gov/s3fs-public/2024-09/HSEM_IngestMap_2024_09_25.pdf)

On the MN Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) website for Radiological Emergency Preparedness there is a wealth of information from fact sheets, more maps, and trainings. [Radiological emergency preparedness | Minnesota Department of Public Safety](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/programs/radiological-emergency-prep)
(<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/programs/radiological-emergency-prep>)