



DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

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Gary Rettig, Coordinator

Cell phone with voicemail 937-901-5112, rettigg@earthlink.net

In the News

On May 27, 2024 a hospital in Washington State was shut down for over five hours due to six individuals presenting to the emergency department claiming that they had been potentially exposed to radiation on a job site. No source or potential source is cited.

According to the news account, the actions of this group set off a chain of precautionary measures that involved the fire department, law enforcement, state and local public health, and county EMA. Initial actions were to isolate these individuals. To do that they were taken outside of the hospital to the parking lot. Local law enforcement blocked off the area around the hospital and the Hazmat Team was called for surveying of the group.

No harmful levels of hazardous materials or radiation were detected on any of the individuals and the hospital was returned to normal operation shortly afterwards. The agencies involved in response were working together to determine the job site and what the potential radiation threat was. No further information was provided.

What this article points out is that the hospitals may need assistance from local police, fire, and Hazmat. Many hospitals in our area have Radiation Safety personnel, but not all do, and the level of capability to an event like this could be limited.

What is Radiation

Radiation is odorless and colorless; you must use survey instruments to detect and identify the source. Alpha and Beta particles may contaminate individuals. Gamma-rays will not contaminate but a Gamma laden radioactive material may be spread by a victim.

○ Alpha-particles

- Only travel a few inches
- Will not penetrate the skin
- TO Gear with SCBA or CPC will stop Alpha particles
- Are indicated as counts per minute (CPM) on a survey meter
- Are not detected by a dosimeter

○ Beta particles

- Can travel up to 12-15 feet
- Will not penetrate the skin but may cause deep burns
- TO Gear with SCBA or CPC will stop Beta particles
- Are indicated as counts per minute (CPM) on a survey meter
- Are not detected by a dosimeter

- **Gamma rays**
 - Can travel great distances
 - Can penetrate very dense material depending on the strength
 - TO Gear with SCBA or CPC will not stop Gamma rays
 - Are measured as REM or Roentgens on a survey meter and can be detected by a dosimeter

Dayton Regional Hazmat has multiple instruments for detection of Radiological Substances but early consultation with radiation experts is critical. One of the first agencies we should be reaching out to, for any radiological event, is the Ohio Department of Health Radiation Division - [614-722-7221](tel:614-722-7221).

Additionally, Radiation is Haz Mat and Ohio EPA should be notified - [Ohio EPA 800-282-9378](tel:614-800-282-9378).

Montgomery LEPC Exercise County

The exercise went very well last month and we were complimented on our preparedness and level of professionalism. None of this would be possible without the dedication of the Team Members that attended. I would like to thank you all for making the Team what it is.

I would also like to thank SugarCreek Packing for their assistance. They provided the facility, personnel to act as company representatives in the exercise, lunch, and a tour of the facility after the exercise. They truly exemplify “Community Involvement” by working together with us to have our exercise go as well as it does.

Training

Training for this month is **June 10, 11, & 12 from 0900 - 1600hrs at the Task Force Building at Dayton Fire Department Training Center.**

We will have **Hazmat IQ** this month. This is an excellent training for recognizing chemical hazards we may encounter in the field. It has been some time since we’ve had this program here.

2024 Training Dates

July – 15-16-17 - Scenarios

August – 12-13-14 – GCLEPC Exer

September – 16-17-18 – Railroad

October – 21-22-23 – 52nd Civil Support Team Sampling for the LRN

November – 18-19-20 – OEPA

December - No training