



Relocation Guide for Emergency Managers

“Relocation”, a non-urgent action during the post emergency phase, is the removal or continued exclusion of people (households) from contaminated areas to avoid long term exposure to a low level of radiation.

Priorities

- The initial post plume priority will be to examine areas that have not been evacuated, determining whether contamination levels necessitate relocation.
- The next priority will be to survey contamination levels in evacuated areas, gauging the possibility and timeline for safe return to areas where safe reoccupation can occur.

Protective Action Guidelines (PAGs)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established conservative protective action guidelines (PAG) for the levels of radioactive contamination that indicate the need for relocation:

- First-year exposure: 2 rem total effective dose equivalent or higher (TEDE – the whole body internal and external dose).
- Any single year following the first year: 0.5 rem TEDE or higher.
- Cumulative dose over 50 years: 5 rem TEDE or higher.

These levels are much lower than what could be experienced in the plume phase, making relocation not as urgent as evacuation. Still timely action is required. With the deposition of a radioactive plume, a population receives most of their first-year exposure in the first week when contamination levels (which decay naturally) are highest.

Protective Action Recommendation Process

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Manager and State Radiological Coordinator (SRC) will use projections, plant conditions and field team & lab sample data to make calculations and develop the protective action recommendations (PAR) for relocation as needed.

A map detailing the affected relocation area and a population estimate will be provided.

- The SRC will explain this PAR in terms of risk level, so that the SEOC Manager and Operations Chief can communicate it to the Governor or Governor’s Authorized Representative (GAR), state agencies, and counties.
- The Operations Chief will get concurrence on the PAR with county agencies; it will be given to the SEOC Manager for approval. Once approved this becomes a Protective Action Decision (PAD).



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- Relocation may apply inside or outside the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). A relocation order may be needed if people evacuated from the EPZ are unable to return due to radioactivity levels that exceed the EPA protective action guidelines for long term exposure.
- A media release about the PAD will be made through the Joint Information Center (JIC).
- Assess critical infrastructure and strategies in the relocated area: including electric power and gas, water, water treatment, transportation, food processors and distributors, restaurants, lodging, day cares, and schools (Department of Health Services, DATCP, WisDOT, county).
- Identify a staging area for Ag Hold products (county).

Considerations for Implementation of Relocation Recommendation

- The following guidance may be used to develop an initial relocation implementation plan:
- Establish the boundary of the area where relocation is necessary using roadways and geopolitical boundaries (state, county).
- Set up traffic control points at boundaries to facilitate relocation and prevent entry, and maintain security checkpoints on all roadways (State Patrol, county).
- Designate a reception center for people being relocated to go to as needed. This may be the same one as for the 10-mile EPZ, or a new one may be designated (Department of Health Services, county).
- Work with hospitals and other facilities with immobile populations to arrange for special transportation and care facilities.
- Provide instructions to people leaving the area: e.g., what to take, what to leave (Department of Health Services, county).
- Determine if workers in the relocation area should be classified as occupational radiation workers and require special training and dosimetry control. Establish protocols for the distribution of dosimetry (Department of Health Services-Radiation Protection Section).
- Provide accurate and coordinated media releases. Request a public information officer from the county or local jurisdiction to come to the Joint Information Center (JIC) (state, county).
- Set up a disaster recovery center (State Agencies, FEMA, American Nuclear Insurers).
- Determine how commerce will be affected in the area (county, state).