



RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR EMERGENCIES RESPONSE GUIDE



A radiological emergency can be caused by nuclear weapons, explosives mixed with radioactive materials (“dirty bombs”), nuclear power plant accidents, transportation accidents involving radioactive materials or occupational accidents. In high enough quantities, radiation can cause skin burns, radiation sickness and an increased risk of cancer.



Get inside.

If you are in a car:

- ▶ Pull to the side of the road, turn off the engine, close the windows and vents, and turn off the air conditioner or heater.
- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, cloth or sleeve.
- ▶ Stay in the car, find shelter if there are buildings nearby or go underground.

If you are outside:

- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, cloth or sleeve.
- ▶ Quickly enter a building whose walls and windows have not been damaged. If there is any damage to a wall or window, move to an interior room or find another building.
- ▶ Take pets with you if it is possible and safe to do so.
- ▶ In the case of a nuclear explosion, go to the center of the building, as far from the roof and windows as possible. Going to the basement is best.

Once inside:

- ▶ Shut windows, outside doors and other openings.
- ▶ In houses or apartments, turn off window fans, air conditioners and heating/cooling systems that bring air from outside.
- ▶ Remove shoes and outer layers of clothing and put them in sealable bags or containers. Do not reuse these clothes. The City will provide instructions on disposal.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ▶ Get health information from credible sources (nyc.gov, cdc.gov and 311).
- ▶ Sign up for Notify NYC for information about emergency events.
- ▶ If you or anyone you know feels overwhelmed or needs help coping, visit lifenet.nyc for free help in your language.
- ▶ In an emergency, always call 911.

- Gently blow your nose and flush the tissue down the toilet.
- Wash your body and hair from the top down with soap and water.
 - Water is safe to use for showers and drinking unless officials say otherwise.
 - Do not scald, scrub or scratch your skin.
 - Do not use conditioner—it can cause particles to stick to your hair.
 - If you cannot take a shower, wash hands, face and exposed parts of your body at a sink, or wipe yourself down with a wet cloth.



Stay inside.

- Do NOT evacuate unless instructed to do so.
- Local authorities will announce if the tap water is unsafe. Drink bottled water and eat food from sealed containers.
- Anything packaged or in a freezer, refrigerator or pantry away from the incident is safe. If in doubt, rinse packaging before opening.
- Pet food in sealed containers is safe for animals to eat. Rinse pet bowls, containers or packaging before using.



Stay informed.

- Use radios, televisions, computers or mobile devices for information from officials about how to stay safe.



Get medical help safely.

- Unless you have a life-threatening injury, do not leave your shelter until authorities have said it is safe to go outside.
- If you have skin burns or nausea, or begin vomiting shortly after radiation exposure, seek medical attention as soon as it is safe to leave your shelter.
- If necessary, Community Reception Centers will be set up by the Health Department and the Fire Department to check people for radiation exposure and contamination. The City will provide instructions of when and where to go. Do not go to hospitals for this service.