



Restricted Zone Guide for Emergency Managers

Why Designate a Restricted Zone?

Restricted zones are established to protect people from chronic exposure to low-level radiation. Access must be controlled to these areas where the population has been evacuated or relocated.

Protective Action Guidelines (PAGs)

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) protective action guidelines (PAG) are used to establish threshold radiation levels for this decision:

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

Areas where these contamination levels are exceeded must be designated as restricted zones until a combination of remediation efforts and natural radioactive decay allow for safe long-term residency. Radiation monitoring will be ongoing in any area declared a restricted zone.

Considerations for Implementation of Restricted Zones

The following guidance may be used to develop an initial restricted zone plan:

- Designate traffic control points and staffing to prevent and control entry (State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Transportation, county).
- Monitor the situation and maintain security inside the restricted zone and on its boundaries (State Patrol).
- Discuss availability of the National Guard to assist (state, Military Affairs).
- Limit re-entry into a restricted zone to essential personnel only.
- Register, brief on radiation exposure, and issue dosimetry to all persons entering a restricted zone. In some cases, a radiation safety escort may be required (state, county).
- Monitor for radiological contamination and (if necessary) decontaminate all persons leaving a restricted zone. Use existing facilities, or establish new ones. Transportation to these sites may be provided (county).

This fact sheet is designed to augment planning for an emergency response to an incident at a nuclear generating plant; it does not supersede any plans, procedures or guidelines currently in use.