

Fukushima Nuclear Reactor Accident

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) is actively advising U.S. federal and state agencies as they assist the Japanese government in their response to the Fukushima nuclear reactor accident. NCRP is also working closely with members of the media (*i.e.*, television, radio and print) to provide timely and accurate information related to the potential human and environmental health impacts of releases of radionuclides from the damaged reactors and spent fuel pools.

Once the situation in Japan is stabilized, the focus will shift to late-phase recovery and site restoration. In 2010, NCRP formed a scientific committee to define the process and procedures to be used in optimizing recovery and restoration following a radiological or nuclear incident. This effort is being funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with an emphasis on incidents involving radiological dispersal devices and improvised nuclear devices.

The next meeting of the NCRP Committee on April 11-12, 2011 has been expanded to include a discussion of the Fukushima nuclear reactor accident. Members of the Committee are actively monitoring the situation and assembling relevant information to be discussed at the meeting. The lessons learned section of the report will include this accident.

NCRP has published a number of important reports that provide guidance at each phase of a nuclear or radiological accident.

Human Health

- Report No. 161, [*Management of Persons Contaminated with Radionuclides*](#)
- Report No. 159, [*Risk to the Thyroid from Ionizing Radiation*](#)
- Report No. 116, [*Limitation of Exposure to Ionizing Radiation*](#)

Environmental Health

- Report No. 154, [*Cesium-137 in the Environment: Radioecology and Approaches to Assessment and Management*](#)
- Report No. 109, [*Effects of Ionizing Radiation on Aquatic Organisms*](#)
- Report No. 52, [*Cesium from the Environment to Man: Metabolism and Dose*](#)

Emergency Response

- Commentary No. 19, [*Key Elements of Preparing Emergency Responders for Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism*](#)

Immediately following the Fukushima nuclear reactor accident, NCRP made Commentary No. 10, [*Advising the Public About Radiation Emergencies*](#), available for free download from its website (<http://NCRPonline.org>).

All NCRP reports and commentaries are available from the NCRP website, <http://NCRPpublications.org>. For additional information contact David A. Schauer, ScD, CHP at schauer@NCRPonline.org, 301.657.2652 (x20) or 301.907.8768 (fax).