

Relocation Planning Guidance

“Relocation” 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 PAGs for the levels of radioactive contamination that indicate the need for relocation:

- First-year: 2 rem total effective dose (TED) or higher.
- Any subsequent year: 0.5 rem TED 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 Process

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Planning and Assessment Center (PAC) will analyze field team and lab sample data to develop protective actions for relocation.

- A map detailing the affected relocation area and a population estimate will be provided to the Intermediate Phase Task Force (IPTF) for comment.
- A technical advisor will explain the protective action recommendation (PAR) in terms of risk level, so that the state incident manager (SIM) and operations chief can communicate it to the governor or governor’s authorized representative (GAR), state agencies and counties.
- After the PAR is coordinated with state and county agencies, it will be given to the SIM for approval. Once approved, this becomes a protective action decision (PAD).
- 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 and are unable to return due to radioactivity levels that exceed the EPA PAGs for long-term exposure.
- A media release about the PAD will be made through the joint information center (JIC). An initial implementation plan will be developed after the PAR is approved.

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 (Department of Transportation [MNDOT], 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 Human Services, Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management [HSEM]).
- Work with hospitals and other facilities with immobile populations to arrange for special transportation and care facilities (Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board [EMSRB], county).
- Provide instructions to people leaving the area: what to take, what to leave (Minnesota Department of Health [MDH], Minnesota Recovers Task Force).
- 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 (Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MNDOT, county, HSEM).
- Identify a staging area for agricultural products not permitted for movement within or out of an agriculture control zone (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 (MDH).
- Provide accurate and coordinated media releases. Request a public information officer from the county or local jurisdiction to come to the 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).

Discussion Questions for Relocation

- How will you describe the area that needs to be relocated?
- What is the number of people to be relocated?
- How will residents be informed that they must relocate?
- Are there any special populations affected by the relocation? What would be their concerns?
- How much time will they be allotted to leave?
- What will you do if they do not leave their homes?
- Are any special services needed for relocated individuals?
- How would you provide transportation assistance to people who need to relocate?