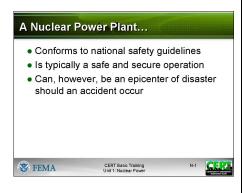
Nuclear Power Plant Emergencies

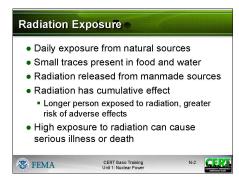
Nuclear Power Plant Emergencies CERT Basic Training Hazards FEMA citizent corps

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE

Display Slide N-0



Display Slide N-1



Display Slide N-2

CONTENT

Introduction

Explain that the construction and operation of nuclear power plants are closely monitored and regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also regulates emergency planning requirements for nuclear power plants. However, accidents at these plants are possible.

Point out that an accident could result in dangerous levels of radiation that could affect the health and safety of the public living near the nuclear power plant.

What is Radiation?

Explain that radioactive materials are composed of unstable atoms. These atoms give off excess energy until they become stable. The energy emitted is radiation.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EMERGENCIES

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	CONTENT
	Point out that each of us is exposed daily to radiation from natural sources, including the sun and the Earth. Small traces of radiation are present in food and water. Radiation also is released from manmade sources, such as x-ray machines, television sets, and microwave ovens.
	Continue by explaining that nuclear power plants use the heat generated from nuclear fission in a contained environment to convert water to steam, which powers generators to produce electricity.
	Stress that <u>radiation has a cumulative effect</u> . The longer a person is exposed to radiation, the greater the risk of adverse effects. A high exposure to radiation can cause serious illness or death.
Potential danger from accident at nuclear power plant is exposure to radiation Area affected by radioactive material release is determined by:	Emphasize that the <u>potential danger from an accident at a nuclear power plant is exposure to radiation</u> . This exposure could come from the release of radioactive material from the plant into the environment, usually characterized by a plume (cloud-like) formation of radioactive gases and particles.
FEMA CERT Basic Training N-3 CERT	Point out that the area affected by radioactive material release is determined by:
Display Slide N-3	 The amount of radiation released from the plant. Wind direction and speed. Weather conditions.

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INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE CONTENT **Hazards** Major Hazards ha Describe the major hazards to people in the vicinity of • Major hazards to people in the vicinity of the plume the radiation plume: Radiation exposure to the body • Inhalation of radioactive materials Radiation exposure to the body from the cloud and • Ingestion of radioactive materials particles deposited on the ground. Inhalation of radioactive materials. CERI Ingestion of radioactive materials. **ॐ** FEMA CERT Basic Training Unit 1: Nuclear Power Emphasize that if an accident occurred involving a Display Slide N-4 radioactive material release at a nuclear power plant. local authorities would: Activate warning sirens or another approved alert method. Provide instructions through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on local television and radio stations. **Emergency Planning Zones Emergency Planning Zones** Tell the group that local and State governments, Federal • EPZ within a 10-mile radius of the plant ■ Possible that people could be harmed by agencies, and the electric utilities have emergency direct radiation exposure response plans in the event of a nuclear power plant • EPZ within 50-mile radius from the plant Radioactive materials could contaminate emergency. The plans define two Emergency Planning water supplies, food crops, and livestock Zones (EPZs). CERT **ॐ** FEMA CERT Basic Training Unit 1: Nuclear Power Explain the EPZs to the participants: **Display Slide N-5** One EPZ covers an area within a 10-mile radius of the plant where it is possible that people could be harmed by direct radiation exposure. The other EPZ covers a broader area, usually up to a 50-mile radius from the plant, where radioactive materials could contaminate water supplies, food crops, and livestock.

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INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE CONTENT **Minimizing Radiation Exposure** What are the three ways to minimize radiation exposure? Allow the participants time to respond. Use the slide to discuss the ways to minimize radiation Minimizing Exposure exposure. Tell the participants that exposure can be Minimize radiation minimized by: exposure by: Time Time. Limit your time exposed to radioactive Distance material. Most radioactivity loses its strength fairly Shielding quickly. In a nuclear power plant accident, local authorities will monitor any release of radiation and determine when the threat has passed. **S** FEMA CERT Basic Training Unit 1: Nuclear Powe CERT <u>Distance</u>. The more distance between you and the source of the radiation, the better. In a serious **Display Slide N-6** nuclear power plant accident, local authorities will call http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/ics/images/r for an evacuation to increase the distance between espirator 01.jpg you and the radiation. (Evacuation also reduces the period of time of exposure.) Shielding. The more heavy and dense material between you and the source of the radiation, the better. This is why local authorities could advise you to remain indoors if an accident occurs. In some cases, the walls in your home would be sufficient

shielding to protect you.

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INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE CONTENT **Nuclear Emergency Terms Nuclear Emergency Terms** Emphasize the importance of knowing the terms that are Notification of Unusual Event used to describe nuclear emergencies: Alert • Site Area Emergency Notification of Unusual Event: A small problem has General Emergency occurred at the plant. No radiation material release is expected. Federal, State, and county officials will be told right away. No action on your part will be necessary. CERT Basic Training Unit 1: Nuclear Power **ॐ** FEMA Alert: A small problem has occurred, and small amounts of radiation material could leak inside the Display Slide N-7 plant. This will not affect you, and you should not have to do anything. Discuss any sections of your Site Area Emergency: A more serious problem has local government's EOP that occurred, and small amounts of radiation material may apply to nuclear power could leak from the plant. If necessary, State and plant emergencies. county officials will act to assure public safety. Area sirens may be sounded. Listen to your radio or television for safety information. General Emergency: This is the most serious problem. Radiation material could leak outside the plant and off the plant site. The sirens will sound. Tune to your local radio or television station for emergency information reports. State and county officials will act to protect the public. Be prepared to follow instructions promptly. **During a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency** What are measures that you can take if you hear a warning? Allow the participants time to respond.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE CONTENT Be sure to make the following points: During an Emergency <u>Listen to the warning</u>. Not all incidents result in the release of radiation. The incident could be contained Listen to warning • Stay tuned to local radio or television inside the plant and pose no danger to the public. • Evacuate, if advised to do so Stay tuned to local radio or television. Local • If not advised to evacuate, shelter in place authorities will provide specific information and instructions. The advice given will depend on the nature of the CERT **ॐ** FEMA CERT Basic Training Unit 1: Nuclear Power emergency, how quickly it is evolving, and how much radiation, if any, is likely to be released. Display Slide N-8 Local instructions should take precedence over any advice given on national broadcasts or in books. Review the public information materials that you received from the power company or government officials. Evacuate, if you are advised to do so. Close and lock doors and windows. Keep car windows and vents closed. Use recirculated air. Listen to the radio for evacuation routes and other instructions. If you are not advised to evacuate, shelter in place. Close doors and windows. Turn off the air-conditioner, ventilation fans, furnace, and other air intakes. Go to a basement or other underground area if possible. Keep a battery-powered radio with you at all times.

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INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE CONTENT **During a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency (continued)** Continue with the following points: During an Emergency Shelter livestock and give them stored feed, if time · Shelter livestock; give them stored feed Do not use telephone permits. • If you suspect exposure, shower thoroughly Do not use the telephone unless it is absolutely Change clothes and shoes necessary._Lines will be needed for emergency calls. Put exposed clothing in plastic bag Seal bag, and place it out of way If you suspect exposure, shower thoroughly. • Put food in covered containers Change clothes and shoes. **S** FEMA CERT Basic Training Unit 1: Nuclear Power Put exposed clothing in a plastic bag. **Display Slide N-9** Seal the bag, and place it out of the way. Put food in covered containers or in the refrigerator. Food not previously covered should be washed before being put in containers. After a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency What should you do after a nuclear power plant emergency? Allow the participants time to respond. Summarize the discussion using the information from the slides that follow. Emphasize the following points: After an Emergency If told to evacuate, return home only when local • If told to evacuate, return home only when authorities say that it safe to do so. local authorities say that it safe • If advised to stay in home, remain inside If advised to stay in the home, remain inside until • Get medical treatment for any unusual symptoms local authorities indicate that it is safe. Get medical treatment for any unusual symptoms, such as the rapid onset of vomiting that may be **ॐ** FEMA CERT Basic Training Unit 1: Nuclear Power CERI related to radiation exposure. Display Slide N-10

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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EMERGENCIES

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	CONTENT
?	Does anyone have additional questions, comments, or concerns about nuclear power plant emergencies?

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