

Important

Release of radioactivity is rare, but possible. The most talked-about scenarios include an accident or incident involving a truck transporting radioactive material, an incident at the Nine Mile power plant in Oswego, or terrorists scattering radioactive material using explosives.

Regardless of the source of radioactivity, Onondaga County's first responders and hospitals are ready to take immediate action. Every measure will be taken to protect the public, reduce illness, and decontaminate affected areas.

For More Information

Websites

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

www.bt.cdc.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency

www.fema.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

<http://www.nrc.gov/>

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

www.ready.gov

New York State Department of Health

www.health.state.ny.us

Onondaga County

www.ongov.net

Radiological Readiness

**Be Aware
Get The Facts
Know What to Do**



**Onondaga County
Health Department
Public Health
Emergency Preparedness**

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Be Aware

Onondaga County is Prepared

Although the risk for exposure to unnatural radiation is low, Onondaga County Health Department has taken steps to prepare for the release of radiation.

The Onondaga County plan includes: identification, isolation, and decontamination of radioactivity to minimize public health risk.

First responders in Onondaga County are equipped with radiation detection devices. These detectors notify personnel when radioactivity is present, so that the proper steps to protect the public can be initiated.

Since radiation cannot be detected by human senses, these radiation detection devices are a crucial addition to Onondaga County's emergency preparedness.

Get the Facts

Radiation and its Effects

Radiation is a form of energy that is present all around us. Different types of radiation exist, some of which have more energy than others.

Exposure to lower doses of radiation may lead to an increased risk of developing some types of cancer.

Exposure to large doses of radiation may cause severe injury or death.

People are exposed to naturally occurring radiation from the soil, air, and cosmic rays. Man-made devices such as X-ray machines and nuclear power plants also generate radiation, although the amount of radiation released is very small.

Radiation and its Effects, cont.

Radiation can affect the body in a number of ways, and the adverse health effects of exposure may not be seen for many years.

These health effects can range from mild effects, such as skin reddening, to serious effects such as death or later cancers depending on the amount of radiation absorbed by the body (the dose), the type of radiation, the route of exposure, and the length of time a person is exposed.

Know What to Do

Stay Prepared, Stay Calm.

Remember, in the event of a radiological emergency, listen for instructions from authorities concerning evacuation and/or shelter.

Taking Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets immediately before or after exposure can help protect the thyroid gland.

KI tablets are available for people living within 10 miles of a nuclear power plant. KI is not considered necessary for people who live farther away.

Basic Emergency Preparedness

Keep a battery powered radio with extra batteries on hand so that you may listen to instructions from authorities. Minimize your exposure by using three strategies: time, distance, and shielding:

Time:

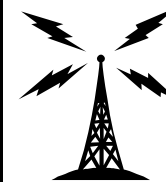
The shorter the time in a radiation field, the less the radiation exposure.

Distance:

The farther a person is from a radiation source, the lower the radiation dose.

Shielding:

Shielding offered by barriers (even cars) can reduce radiation exposure.



During any type of emergency, tune in to local radio and TV for updates and specific instructions from authorities.