

Health Physics Dose Assessment Practices During Radiological Emergency Response

Executive Summary

Currently there is no university course in the United States that addresses how health physics is applied during an emergency response. In a radiological emergency health physicists will be called upon to quickly evaluate data, make dose calculations, understand environmental transport models, and compare results to Federal protective action guidelines. If radiation professionals ever get training in this area, it is limited and comes in the form of sporadic classes/exercises or they are trained during the event. Early exposure to the issues and knowledge needed during an emergency response is very useful. This one-year project will develop a course that exposes students to health physics practices following a radiological release. Students will be introduced to the assets the Federal Government provides, atmospheric modeling, relevant software, and current Federal guidelines. The class will culminate in a Capstone Exercise in which students must use their knowledge to respond to a simulated radiological event.

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