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# NUCLEAR INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS

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## I. Purpose

This directive establishes Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy regarding Nuclear Incident Response Teams (NIRTs).

## II. Scope

This directive applies to all DHS organizational elements.

## III. Authorities

Homeland Security Act of 2002, codified in Title VI, U. S. Code

## IV. Definitions

A. **Nuclear Incident Response Team (NIRT)**: Those entities of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that perform:

1. Nuclear or radiological emergency support functions (including accident response, search response, advisory, and technical operations functions);
2. Radiation exposure functions at the medical assistance facility known as the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TC);
3. Radiological assistance functions; and
4. Related functions.

B. **NIRT assets** include:

Asset:

Capability provided:

<b>Aerial Measuring System</b>	Airborne radiological sensing and surveying
<b>Nuclear Weapons Accident Response Group</b>	Technical expertise and equipment for response to U.S. nuclear weapon incidents
<b>Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center</b>	Operational and logistic management for radiological consequence management
<b>National Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability</b>	Computer modeling of radioactive and hazardous materials' transport, diffusion, and disposition
<b>Nuclear Emergency Support Team</b>	See "C." below
<b>Radiological Assistance Program</b>	Regional first response for incidents involving radiological material
<b>Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site</b>	Advanced medical assistance and training for radiation exposure accidents

C. **Nuclear Emergency Support Team**: An umbrella term encompassing one or more of the following four component teams:

1. The **Nuclear/Radiological Advisory Team** provides limited search and detection capability directly supporting the Domestic Emergency Support Team;
2. The **Joint Technical Operations Team** provides advanced technical capabilities to advise on render safe operations and the movement of nuclear devices;
3. The **Lincoln Gold Augmentation Team** provides technical (nuclear) advice to U.S. military special mission units; and
4. The **Search Response Team** provides specialized search capability for lost or stolen nuclear devices, weapons or material.

## V. Responsibilities

A. The **Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R)**: shall be the conduit between DOE/EPA and DHS for all issues pertaining to NIRTs. This single point of DHS entry/exit will ensure maximum communication and coordination within DHS and provide clear direction to the DOE/EPA NIRTs in this critical mission area.

B. The **Office of the Under Secretary for Science & Technology (S&T)**: shall assist EP&R in the development of technical standards for the NIRT. In cooperation with S&T, EP&R will develop requirements for new technologies and/or training programs to support the NIRT mission. S&T will be responsible for the research and development of such technologies from the proof of concept through system acquisition. S&T and EP&R will coordinate in the deployment of NIRT technology pilot projects. New technologies, with potential application for the NIRTs, shall be jointly evaluated.

C. The **Office of the Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP)**: shall manage contingency and protection planning activities to ensure protective measures are in place that address the threat and protective measures in three areas of operations: oversees, at the border, and within the United States. All planning must ensure a seamless transition of command and control and critical decision making. Planning efforts will be done based on risk assessments developed through mapping threats and vulnerabilities. IAIP will coordinate planning but will have no oversight role during actual operations.

## VI. Policy & Procedures

A. The Office of the Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security (BTS) shall provide the Office of the Under Secretary for EP&R (or his designee) with as much advance notice as possible regarding need for NIRT assistance. Procedures for the notification and assumption of control of NIRT assets will be consistent with the MOA between DHS and DOE and the support agreement between EP&R and EPA. BTS and EP&R shall coordinate to ensure the appropriate response for the specific mission. Prior to and during a NIRT deployment supporting BTS, EP&R and BTS will coordinate to ensure the appropriate response for the specific mission. Subsequent to a NIRT deployment supporting BTS, EP&R and BTS shall capture lessons learned for future deployment improvements. Lessons learned affecting DOE or EPA shall be communicated to DOE/EPA by EP&R, or jointly by EP&R and BTS.

B. NIRTs will provide a versatile, capable, nuclear or radiological emergency response and emergency management capability. To ensure the latest in technology is available for the NIRTs, EP&R will work with S&T to establish technical standards and identify new technologies applicable to the NIRTs. Standards will be communicated to DOE and EPA by EP&R.

C. Deployment of a NIRT has the potential to generate increased levels of media interest. DHS Office of Public Affairs will coordinate public affairs actions relating to the NIRT with the Lead Federal Agency (if other than DHS) and the on scene Joint Information Center (if established).

D. **Questions or Concerns Regarding this Process:** Any questions or concerns regarding this directive should be addressed to the Office of the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response.