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## LESSON LEARNED

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### Incident Management: Providing Emergency Personnel with Exposure Control Information

#### SUMMARY

Emergency managers should provide emergency personnel with exposure control information that is consistent with existing radiological emergency response plans (RERPs). This can limit confusion and ensure that these personnel receive accurate exposure control information during a radiological release.

#### DESCRIPTION

On November 17, 2009, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region III sponsored the Limerick Generating Station (LGS) Full-Scale Exercise (FSE). This FSE involved 3 federal agencies, 19 state agencies, 184 county organizations, and 17 private sector organizations. The exercise scenario simulated a containment failure in the LGS reactor, which resulted in the dispersal of radioactive material. The main purpose of this FSE was to test the response capabilities of local agencies and organizations located in the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) surrounding the LGS. In addition, this FSE tested the ability of participating organizations to protect the health and safety of the public and emergency workers during a radiological release event.

The LGS is located in southeastern Pennsylvania on the Schuylkill River. The LGS is surrounded by a 10-mile EPZ and a 50-mile EPZ.

At the time of this exercise, the emergency worker radiological briefing videotape, employed to brief the Douglass Township Emergency Operations Center (EOC) personnel, and the Douglass Township RERP contained conflicting exposure control information. The videotape directed all emergency personnel to wear permanent record dosimeters (PRDs) outside their clothing during operations. Conversely, the Douglass Township RERP directed emergency workers to wear PRDs in the pocket of an outer garment.

Emergency personnel may consist of any personnel engaged in operations required to minimize the effects of a fixed nuclear facility emergency. These personnel can include personnel from the EOC, law enforcement, fire, radiation protection, traffic control, health services, environmental monitoring, transportation services, utilities, and animal care organizations, among others.

The LGS after-action report (AAR) observes that the lack of consistent information could have resulted in emergency personnel receiving conflicting information, which would have compromised personnel safety during an actual event. The AAR recommends that emergency managers revise the radiological briefing videotape to reflect the information included in the RERP.

Emergency managers should provide emergency personnel with exposure control information that is consistent with existing RERPs. This can limit confusion and ensure that these personnel receive accurate exposure control information during a radiological release.

#### **CITATION**

Federal Emergency Management Agency. *Limerick Generating Station After Action Report/Improvement Plan*. 09 Feb 2010.

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=43306>

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