

## RELATED TERMS

- Exercise
- Preventive Radiological Detection Program
- Site Security



## Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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## PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Hazardous Material
- Law Enforcement
- Transportation

# LESSON LEARNED

## Radiation Screening: Securing a Site after Detection of Unknown Radiological Source

### SUMMARY

Law enforcement personnel conducting radiation screening of shipments must secure the site immediately after detection of a potentially illicit radiological source. This action is critical to help these officers protect the public.

### DESCRIPTION

On November 8-9, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office sponsored the Southeast Transportation Corridor Pilot (SETCP) Technology Demonstration 2006 exercise. This exercise tested participants' ability to prevent a radiological or nuclear emergency by detecting concealed radioactive sources. Personnel were asked to screen commercial trucks and cargo containers with fixed and portable radiation detection equipment in use at vehicle weigh stations and port security facilities. Following detection of a radioactive source, participants were required to adjudicate the alarm and to activate appropriate regional reach-back capabilities. Personnel from several federal departments and agencies as well as from the states of Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee participated in the exercise.

During this exercise, some law enforcement personnel monitoring shipments did not secure the site after detecting an unknown, potentially illicit radiological source. For instance, Tennessee state troopers did not close a weigh station or clear the adjoining parking area after discovering that a truck transported unidentified radioactive material. A large number of vehicles then continued to transit through the station and to stop in the parking lot where the truck was parked. This significantly increases the risk that vehicle occupants could become exposed to radiation and/or become contaminated. The SETCP Technology Demonstration 2006 after-action report concluded that "it is imperative that the public be protected against radiological/nuclear dangers. The station should have been closed immediately following the confirmation of an unexplained radiological/nuclear source."

Law enforcement personnel conducting radiation screening of shipments must secure the site immediately after detection of a potentially illicit radiological source. This action is critical to help these officers protect the public.

### CITATION

Department of Homeland Security, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. *Southeast Transportation Corridor Pilot (SETCP) Technology Demonstration November 8-9, 2006*. 01 Mar 2007.

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