



FAQ for RITN Interaction with Nuclear Power Plants

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions sheet is to answer questions related to nuclear power plant preparedness and the interaction of the Radiation Injury Treatment Network (RITN).

The RITN Concept of Operations has historically omitted nuclear power plant accidents since the medical surge is not anticipated. However, in recent years increasingly RITN centers have been approached by NPPs or reached out to local responders to collaborate. This has resulted in many questions that RITN has not previously answered.

1. RITN Exercises – Is it permitted to invite or agree to allow my local nuclear power plant to participate in our RITN exercise? How much should we expect/ask for?
 - a. Each RITN center may invite or permit anyone to observe or participate in their RITN exercise.
 - b. Note that it is important for new participants to understand the role of RITN in a response (e.g. not first responders or receivers).
 - c. Prior to observing or participating, directing any new participants to take the 'Introduction to RITN' or the 'RITN Concept of Operations' would be highly recommended. See www.ritn.net/training
 - d. At a minimum encourage them to watch the "RITN What you need to know" video on the RITN YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkd45X1DIPqeRr-u5lph6Og>
2. If a nuclear power plant has questions about RITN, who should they ask?
 - a. They may be directed to the RITN website which has several sections describing RITN (About, Exercises, Resources, and Contact). See www.RITN.net
 - b. Questions can always be sent to RITN@nmpd.org
3. Who oversees planning for incidents at commercial nuclear facilities?
 - a. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulates nuclear power plants, which encompasses emergency preparedness. These preparedness efforts incorporate extensive plans as well as the testing of them on a regular basis. For more information see <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness.html>
4. What's the current response plan for a nuclear power plant accident?
 - a. This question is best answered by your local nuclear power plant as each facility is different.
5. Should our center expect to receive patients from an incident at a nuclear power plant?
 - a. Unless your facility is already designated as a Medical Services (MS) hospital, you probably will not receive patients.
 - b. If your facility is in close proximity to a nuclear power plant, you may be a designated receiving facility (aka medical services hospital) and should speak with your center's emergency management/safety department for more information.



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- c. During an incident occurring at a nuclear power plant it is likely that hospitals in the region will see an increase in emergency department visits from concerned citizens (worried well). To assist in addressing their questions/concerns hospitals should reference the Communicating During and After a Nuclear Power Plant Incident (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/33011?id=7651>) document produced by FEMA.
6. What assistance could RITN centers provide to nuclear power plants?
 - a. RITN-designated medical personnel may be asked to provide Acute Radiation Syndrome (ARS) subject matter expertise to local hospitals.
7. Where can I learn more information about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REP)?
 - a. The FEMA REP website is the best place to learn more. See <https://www.fema.gov/radiological-emergency-preparedness-program>

Additional Resources

- Radiation Injury Treatment Network
 - www.ritn.net
- Operating Nuclear Power Reactors (by Location or Name)
 - <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactors/>
- United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Emergency Preparedness & Response
 - <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness.html>