



Re-Entry Guide for Emergency Managers

“Re-Entry” is an approved, temporary entry inside a restricted zone for essential purposes. These activities may include:

- Protection of valuable infrastructure
- Law enforcement
- Fire fighting
- Tending livestock and exhibition animals
- Control of industrial processes and public utilities
- Animal rescue/control

Priorities for Re-entry

The priority activities for re-entry are:

- Life safety
- Incident stabilization
- Animal care
- Critical infrastructure and services
- Recovery

The counties have the primary responsibility for implementation/coordination of re-entry. This includes:

- Establishing locations where re-entry access control occurs.
- Coordinating requests for re-entry.
- Providing briefings, dosimetry, potassium iodide (KI) and just in time training for people re-entering.
- Providing escorts for people re-entering as needed.

All persons re-entering an evacuated or restricted zone are considered emergency workers and are to be treated as emergency workers for exposure control and personal protection concerns.

Implementation of Re-entry

Re-entry starts as soon as an evacuation area is established and access to the area is controlled. Re-entry will continue for an extended period of time and will include entry into the restricted area once established.

Initial Re-Entry Exposure Guidelines

The county Radiological Officer (RO) obtains stay time and exposure limit from the State Radiological Coordinator (SRC).

Initial Re-Entry

- Radiological monitoring teams will be the first people assigned to work in evacuated or restricted areas. Monitoring teams have protocols for entering evacuated or restricted areas and their own exposure control procedures.
- Access to the evacuated or restricted areas by other people will be coordinated by the individual county radiological officer (RO).
- Re-entry into the evacuated area must be permitted for essential purposes and people entering the evacuated area should (recommended) have a security escort to ensure they only go to the location indicated in the re-entry request.
- Re-entry into the evacuated area outside and upwind of the plume footprint (actual or projected) will have radiological exposure stay time. Stay time should be based on the time needed to complete the task and should not exceed a day (eight-hour scheduled



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work shift). Longer stay times may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

- Re-entry into an area inside, around or downwind of a plume footprint (actual or projected) should initially be limited to life safety purposes, persons entering may be escorted and should have projected stay times based on actual or projected contamination levels.
- Everyone entering an evacuated or restricted area will be considered as an emergency worker and treated as such.

Sustained Re-Entry

More refined protocols and stay time calculations will be provided to the counties from the SEOC as more detailed contamination monitoring, sampling and analysis is completed.

- Radiological monitoring teams will be assigned to work in the evacuated or restricted areas. Monitoring teams have protocols for entering evacuated or restricted areas and their own exposure control procedures.

Considerations for Implementation of Re-Entry Protocols

The counties must implement protocols and procedures to authorize and track temporary re-entry.

The following guidance may be used to develop an initial relocation implementation plan:

- Designate access control points for re-entry in each county and communicate that information to the state.

- Implement a system for receiving requests for re-entry and communicate that information to the state.
- Prioritize Re-entry requests.
- Register all persons re-entering a restricted zone, brief them on radiation exposure and safety, issue and train them in the use of dosimetry and KI.
- Implement a system to track stay times and dose per individual.
- Provide monitoring and decontamination services at a designated site upon completion of re-entry.
- Communicate any complicating factors in implementing a re-entry program (timeline for implementation, resource requirements, volume of requests) to the state.

NOTE: The state will provide general guidance on stay times and exposure control for re-entry by geographic area based on contamination levels as soon as detailed monitoring and sampling information is available.

Considerations for those who Re-Enter

- The counties must designate the point(s) for controlled access to the contaminated area.
- Anyone who re-enters a restricted zone will be exposed to low levels of radiation. There will be no immediate ill effects as a result of this. Following the procedures given to you by the counties will keep your dose well-below established Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines.

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- Anyone re-entering will be issued and trained in the use of dosimetry.
- Persons re-entering a confirmed or projected plume area will be assigned a stay time for how long it is safe to stay in the restricted zone. Discussion between the County Radiological Officer and the State Radiological Coordinator (SRC) will occur to determine appropriate stay times.
- Those re-entering may be instructed to wear protective garments, including gloves, shoe covers, and coveralls. It is important to wear these as instructed by a radiation control specialist.
- Avoid rubbing your face with a gloved hand, eating, drinking, or smoking while within the restricted zone; these activities increase your risk of internal contamination.
- All persons leaving a restricted zone must be monitored for radiological contamination, and may need to be decontaminated before being released. Transportation to monitoring sites will be provided by the county.