



Protective Action Recommendation Study

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Background

- NRC is revising guidance on protective actions for nuclear plant emergencies
- Public response to protective action direction has been questioned
- Several evacuations within nuclear plant Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs), but none were radiological
- Public Telephone survey conducted in March 2008
- Published as NUREG/CR-6953 Vol. 2

Background

- Survey assessed public tendencies with respect to implementing protective action strategies
- Also gathered data on:
 - Public information programs
 - Planning for special needs population
 - Shadow evacuation
 - Planning for school evacuations

Methodology

- Participants resided within EPZ of nuclear plants
- Random sample of 821 respondents interviewed by phone
- Survey sample at least 45% male for gender balance
- Participants at least 18 years of age

Knowledge of Response

- Q6: On a scale from zero to seven... how informed... are you about what to do if the sirens for the nuclear plant... were to sound?
 - 60% well informed

Knowledge of Response

- Q7 To the best of your recollection, have you ever received any EP information such as..... ?
 - 78% recalled receiving information
- Q9: Do you keep this information in a place where you can readily access it?
 - 47% keep information

Public Response

- Q23: How likely do you think..... that you would follow evacuation instructions...?
 - 81% would follow
- Q25: If you heard a siren and... then an emergency message..... that there is no immediate danger and to stay inside and monitor the station for further notice. How likely would you follow these instructions?
 - 77% would follow

Public Response

- Q27: How likely do you think it is that you would follow shelter in place instructions...?
 - 75% would shelter
- Q28 How likely... you would follow shelter in place instructions if it would only be for 3-4 hours?
 - 77% would shelter

Children in School

- Q40: ...how likely.. you would try to pick your children up from school in the event of an incident...?
 - (n=219) 72% would get children
- Q41: ... how likely... you would try to pick your children up from school if you were told by local officials that your children were already being evacuated?
 - (n=219) 42% would get children

Public Response

- Q30: Consider... a staged evacuation. How likely it is that you would follow instructions and shelter in place until it is your turn to evacuate?
 - 72% would shelter
- Q31: How likely is it that you would evacuate if you were told that other areas were evacuating but people in your area should not evacuate because they are not in danger?
 - 60% would evacuate

Special Needs

- Q53: Would you or a family member require assistance...to... evacuate?
 - 8% need help
- Q54: Have you registered with your county...your need for assistance?
 - (n=69) 29% have registered

Conclusions

- EPZ population relatively well informed
- Public will follow staged evacuation direction sufficiently to support strategy (given proper message)
- Public will shelter if asked
- Preparedness for special needs people not in special facilities should be improved

Next Steps

- Revise Supp. 3 - PAR Logic Diagram
- Coordinate with FEMA on special needs population not in special facilities

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