



# Recent Social Science Research to Enhance Emergency Preparedness

Exploratory Mini-Workshop on Social Science &  
Meteorological Operations

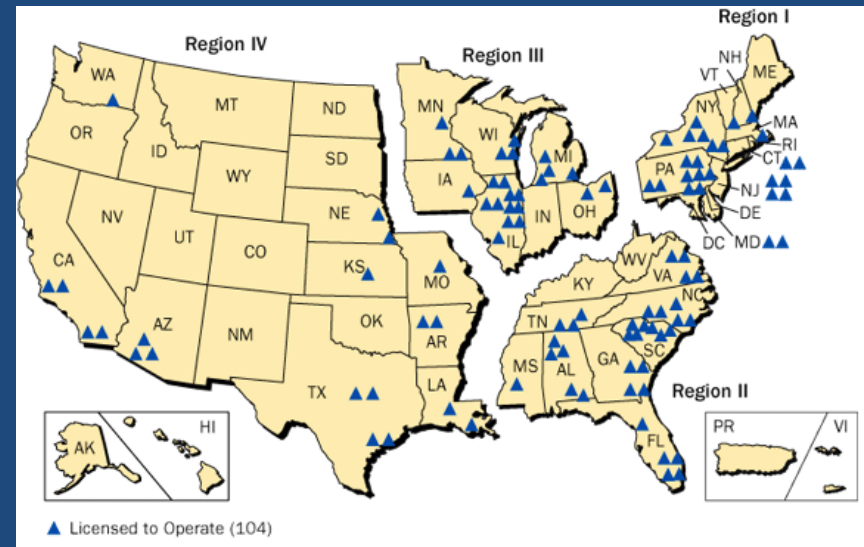
May 3, 2010

Sara K. Mroz

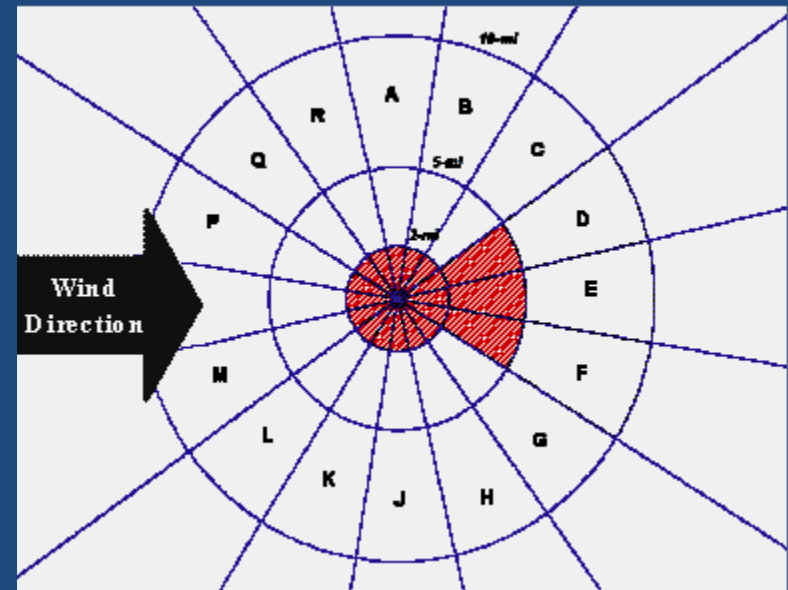
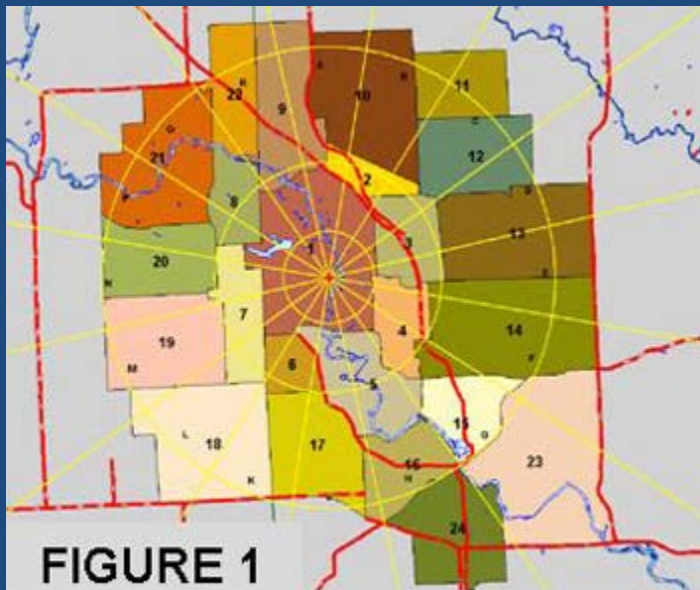
Office of Nuclear Security & Incident Response

# NRC Mission

- To regulate the nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment.



# Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) & Protective Action Recommendations (PARs)



# Recent Research

- Public telephone survey and focus groups of citizens and emergency responders living in EPZs
  - Explore public understanding of PAR process
  - Understand how alternative PAR schemes would be accepted by public
  - Results published: NUREG/CR-6953 (ML0831104060)

# Recent Research Results

- EPZ population relatively well informed
- Given proper messaging:
  - Public will follow staged evacuation direction
  - Public will shelter if asked
- Emergency workers will respond in an emergency
- Preparedness for special needs population not in special facilities should be improved

# Action from Research: PAR Logic

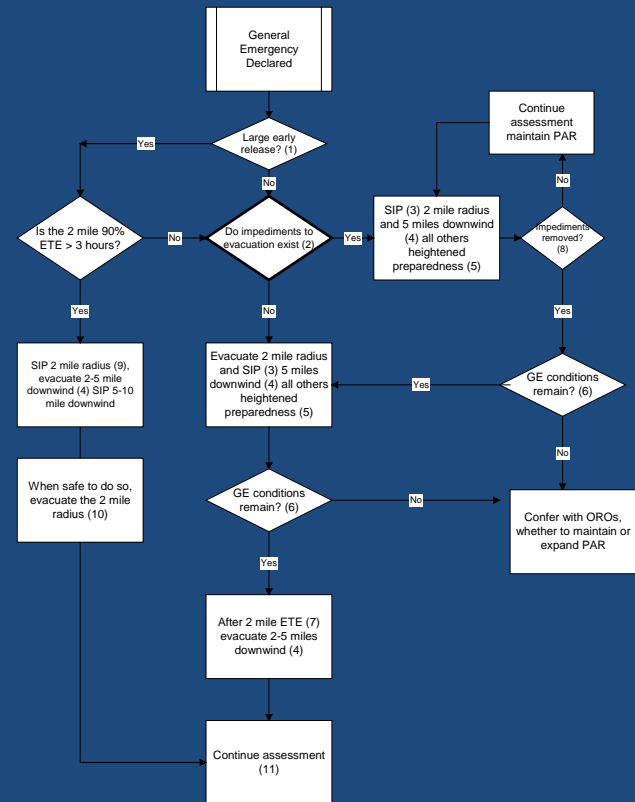
- Revised Protective Action Recommendation logic

- Revision to regulations (Supplement 3 to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1)

- Draft NUREG currently available for public review and comment

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

Docket ID: NRC-2010-0080



# Action from Research: Risk Communications

- NRC contracted expert to develop NUREG compiling “state-of-the-art” research into risk communications
  - Develop key messages
- Communication templates to craft messages and supporting information
- Not yet available for public review and comment

# Conclusions

- Importance of messaging and communication
- Alternative protection strategies can be implemented



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