

U.S. NRC Incident Response Activities

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NRC Event Communications

- NRC response roles
- Initial notification of an Emergency Classification
- Communications with NRC in response
- Physical Attack
- Imminent Threat Process

NRC Incident Response Roles

- Independent assessment of licensee activities/plant conditions
- Independent assessment of licensee Protective Action Recommendations (PARS)
- Support off-site officials
- Federal liaison
- Media interaction

NRC Response Decision-making

- Licensee notifies NRC as soon as possible but within 60 minutes of the emergency declaration
 - Brief Headquarters Operations Officer
- Headquarters Operations Officer notifies Decision makers
 - Licensee remains on line if possible to answer specific questions
- Event details requested from the licensee communicator:
 - Description of the event,
 - Significance of the event,
 - Status of the plant (and equipment),
 - Potential for degrading conditions, etc.
- Communicator knowledgeable on:
 - Plant operations
 - Current plant status

Response Modes

Monitoring – Region leads response

- Events are understood
- Not a danger to public health and safety
- Communications
 - Licensee – Region on Emergency Notification System (ENS) Bridge

Activation/Expanded Activation

- Incident complex or uncertain
- Involves terrorist activities
- NRC Headquarters in the Lead from the Operations Center
 - Executive Team (ET) Member (Chairman ET Director)
 - Regional Site Team at Licensee
- Communications
 - Emergency Notification System – Plant conditions/status
 - Health Physics Network – Protective Measures/Protective Action Recommendations
 - Safeguards Team Bridge – Security and Threat
 - Licensee Management

Expected Level of Communications

- **Emergency Notification System (ENS)**
 - Open line at Alert or higher or any NRC activation
 - If NRC remains in NORMAL MODE the communicator is normally allowed to hang up
 - Access to plant data or status boards
 - Operational/engineering knowledge
 - Update NRC on Changing Plant Conditions or Emergency Classifications
 - Site security response

Expected Level of Communications

- **Health Physics Network**
 - Open line at the request of NRC
 - Expected information (RIS 2002-16)
 - Status of radiological releases
 - Classification
 - Protective Action Recommendations
 - Status of event – mitigation activities/success
- **Safeguards Team Bridge**
 - At the request of NRC
 - Not normally an open line
 - Site security and Local Law Enforcement response

Key Information Needs

- Status of Reactor Core
- Status of Reactor Cooling Systems
- Status of Containment
- Challenges to above
- Operational Priorities
- Operations planned/underway which may result in significant Dose Rate Changes on/offsite
- Operations planned that require Radiation Safety Evaluation/Support
- Likely release paths

Physical Attack

- Licensee required to give accelerated notification (<15 min) to NRC
- Authentication Code verified by NRC
- Key details provided by caller/licensee
 - Facility
 - Classification of Emergency
 - Nature of attack (armed assault, vehicle bomb)
 - Attack status (Imminent, in-progress, repelled)
- Licensee **does not** maintain an open line

Physical Attack Response

- HQ Emergency Response Officer (HERO)
 - Call ALL Reactor and Fuel Cycle Facilities (Blast dial)
 - Authentication Code
 - Request licensee consider an increase in security posture
 - Call HQ and All Region's Information Assessment Teams
 - Obtain Region point of Contact
- HQ Operations Officer (HOO)
 - DHS and FBI
 - NRC Decision Makers (Blast Dial)
 - Response Staffing
- Licensee **does not** maintain an open line

Aircraft Threat

- Federal Aviation Administration or Department of Defense notifies NRC of aircraft threat
 - HQ Emergency Response Officer maintains continuous communications with the information source
 - HOO briefs licensee and NRC Senior Manager of key information
 - HOO will use the authentication code
- Key conference participants
 - HOO
 - Licensee **dedicated** communicator
 - NRC Senior manager
 - Ensures licensee performs imminent aircraft threat procedures if appropriate
 - Delegated authority to issue immediately effective verbal orders to NRC licensee

For More Information

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