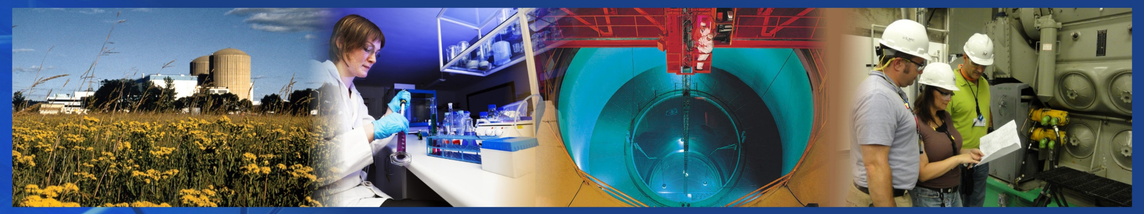
U.S.NRC
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment

RIC 2015



Improved Timeliness of Emergency Declarations

The capability to declare an emergency is fundamental to emergency preparedness.

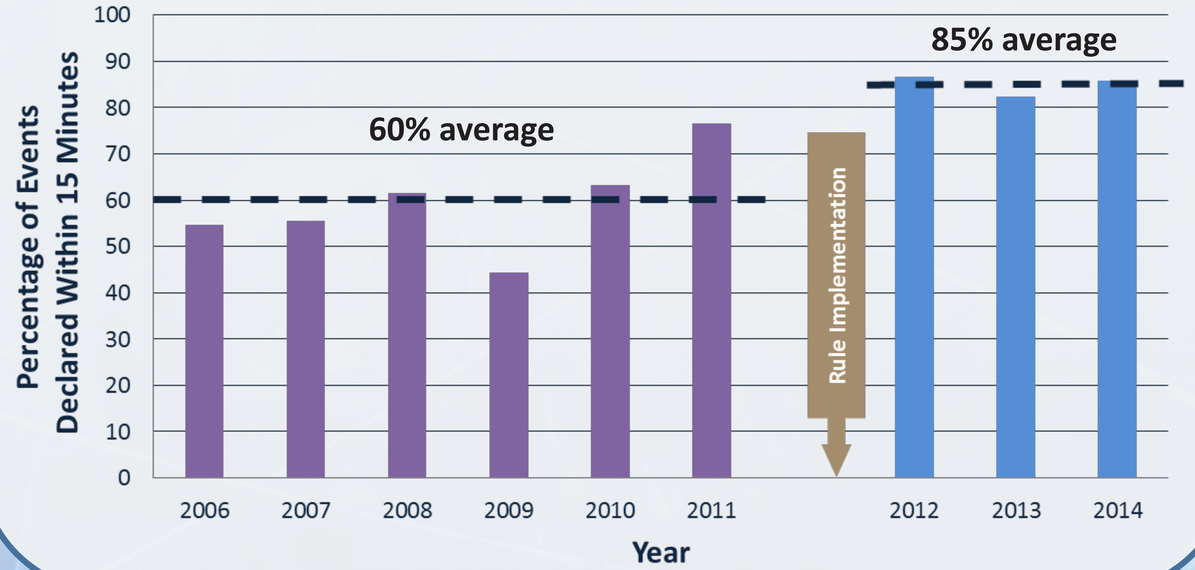
Emergency response activities are implemented in a staged, proportional manner, based upon the level of the declared emergency.

- General Emergency
- Site Area Emergency
- Alert
- Notice of Unusual Event

If a declaration is delayed, emergency response actions to protect public health and safety may not be timely.

In 2011, the NRC revised Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.C, "Activation of Emergency Organization," to require licensees to establish and maintain the capability to assess, classify, and declare an emergency condition within 15 minutes after the availability of indications to plant operators that an emergency action level (EAL) has been exceeded.

Since implementation of the rule, industry improvements have led to more consistent declarations within 15 minutes, ensuring a timely emergency response.



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