

PLAN FOR FACILITY IN A COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOR
HANDLING CONTAMINATED ACCIDENT VICTIM

A leader should be appointed to be responsible for developing the plan and training the staff in emergency drills. The person should be a physician or senior staff nurse on the staff, preferably with some experience with radiation, such as a specialist in nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, clinical laboratory, emergency medicine, or surgery. The leader should be responsible for selecting a team, arranging its training, and designing a plan to meet the spectrum of radiation accidents that might involve the hospital. The team leader in cooperation with the hospital administrator should select the decontamination site and arrange for its equipment. The hospital administrator is usually responsible for arranging lines of communication with police, fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance services.

The team - This should include (a) someone able to read radiation monitoring instruments and interpret the readings, (b) a person who can arrange for bioassay of specimens, (c) persons who can decontaminate a patient, provide standard laboratory work, and render emergency medical services, including surgery.

The facility - The room selected for decontamination should be close to the emergency facility, if possible, but preferably accessible by an entrance not used for the usual emergency admission. The room should have running water and, if possible, a shower, and a patient table from which contaminated wash water can be collected and stored in plastic containers for later assay before disposal.

Supplies and Procedures - see attached lists