

## EMERGENCIES AND EMERGENCY PLANNING IN FRANCE

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## PLANNING FOR RADIATION EMERGENCIES

The organization for dealing with radiation emergencies in France is complex and centralized. It consists of the Radiation Security Council with participants from the Premier Ministre and the Ministers of Interior, Industry, Health, and Defense. A permanent general secretary for radiation security coordinates the work of the various departments.

Planning for nuclear power emergencies is divided between on-site, in which organization and intervention are the responsibilities of the manager of the plant, and off-site, in which organization and intervention are the responsibilities of the regional governor. Both on-site and off-site planning have models integrated into a special code of practice called the radiation emergency organization.

For intervention, two types of action are considered: technical and medical. On-site technical intervention is the responsibility of the plant's safety department and radiological health physics protection department, with coordinated assistance among the different nuclear plants in France. Off-site technical intervention is the responsibility of two national services: the nuclear safety service in industry department and the radiation protection service in the Department of Health, with assistance from the nuclear plants within the regions.

Medical intervention for workers and the public is the general responsibility of the Ministry of Health. Regional organization and action are the responsibilities of the regional governor aided by a special council, the national committee of radiation medical experts. For each nuclear plant there are written agreements with local hospitals for the emergency treatment of the workers; the public has a special organization with regional hospitals for nonradiation injuries and a national organization (based on the International Center of Radiopathology) for radiation injuries. The name, International Center of Radiopathology, was chosen because the Center is a collaborating center of the World Health Organization for radiopathology and has regional offices in Europe, Africa, and Western Asia. It is also recommended as a competent center by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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