



CDC's Radiation Studies Branch

CDC plays a unique role in identifying potentially harmful environmental exposures and examining health risks associated with these exposures. One aspect of this work is its radiation studies program, which looks at the relationship between environmental radiation exposures and public.

In addition, RSB has been exploring public health issues related to medical exposures to radiation from diagnostic and treatment procedures and from frequent airline travel. Also, RSB has participated in preparedness planning and exercises for nuclear power plant emergencies. However, after September 11, 2001, the branch's role expanded to focus on preparedness and response for a nuclear or radiological terrorist event.

Key responsibilities of the RSB include the following:

- Identifying potentially harmful environmental exposures to ionizing radiation
- Conducting public health research related to radiation exposures, and
- Working to protect the public's health in the event of a radiological emergency.

RSB's Radiation Emergency Preparedness Program Activities

Some of RSB's preparedness program activities include the following:

- Working with the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee to prepare qualifications and guidance for the Federal Advisory Team on Environment, Food, and Health.
- Participating in emergency response drills each year to test federal, state, and local readiness for a nuclear or radiological event.
- Collaborating with the Strategic National Stockpile to assess what additional supplies might be needed to prepare for a radiation emergency.
- Developing planning guidance for public health officials at the state, local, territorial, and tribal levels on radiological emergency preparedness.

