

SUMMARY

This Civil Preparedness Guide (CPG) establishes and documents the need for procurement and nationwide distribution of radiological defense (RADEF) instruments in sufficient quantities to protect the population and to make recovery activities possible in the event of a large-scale nuclear disaster.

It describes established State and local systems for storing, maintaining, and using these instruments. It also projects instrument quantities required to meet national needs for radiological defense.

Events involving nuclear materials or weapons and resulting in a hazardous radiological environment are possible.

Hence, under the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is charged with developing plans and procedures for national population protection and for providing radiological instruments to support population protection during and after a nuclear attack. In keeping with the intent of this legislation, the report emphasizes nuclear attack preparedness measures involving radiological instruments.

Studies have shown that millions of people might survive the direct effects of even a massive nuclear strike. Radiological instruments are the "eyes" that would permit survivors to "see" an otherwise invisible threat to their health: fallout radiation.

Without such instruments, members of a post attack society would be unable to sense the hazard around them and, hence, unable to take protective measures that could greatly increase their chances of survival.

Across the U.S. today, State and local operational areas number 3,450. This is the minimum number of government units that must have fully developed emergency management capabilities-including a multihazard radiological emergency response capability to achieve the goals of a nationwide IEMS.

Within these operational areas, users and facilities requiring radiological instruments include:

- * Over 100,000 Radiological Response Team members.
- * Nearly three million emergency services personnel.
- * Over 20 million critical workers.
- * Fixed and mobile emergency operating centers numbering 3,450 each.
- * Key broadcast facilities numbering 2,700.
- * Approximately 740,000 public shelter facilities.
- * 20,000 key worker shelter facilities.

These are the major categories of personnel and supporting facilities that would be used to protect the public and to direct and implement response and recovery efforts in the event of a nuclear disaster.

However, estimates show that for the five most essential types of radiological instruments, the current national inventory does not meet even 30 percent of projected national requirements in the best case. In the worst case, the current national inventory meets only a scant one percent of the projected requirement. Thus, current shortfalls in the five most essential types of radiological defense instruments range between 71 and 99 percent.

Nationwide, there is a requirement for 68,482,700 radiological instruments. The chart, Summary of Radiological Defense Instrument Requirements, on the following page categorizes instrument requirements by functions and user categories.