

IND: PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT NO. 4

(Can be used when evacuation of designated areas is recommended.)

There was a nuclear explosion at _____ [site of the detonation]. The fire, police and health departments have activated emergency plans. Although the highest levels of radionuclide contamination are within about a mile radius from the explosion, radioactive material was carried by the wind in a _____ [northern, southern, eastern, western] direction from the site of the explosion. We are evacuating residents closer than _____ mile _____ [north, south, east, west] of the explosion site. That is, those within the area north of _____ [street, avenue, etc.], _____ south of _____ [street, avenue, etc.], east of _____ [street, avenue, etc.], and west of _____ [street, avenue, etc.]. These residents may report to _____ [name the evacuation center(s) and give address(es)], where staff will be onsite to determine if contamination is present, and provide additional decontamination if needed. ONLY the individuals within this designated area are advised to evacuate. If we determine that additional evacuations are advisable, you will be told where to go. As a precaution, if you are located within _____ miles _____ [compass direction] of the _____ [explosion site], you should continue to stay indoors, keep the doors and windows closed and turn off fans that bring in air from the outside. In-room fans that only recirculate air are OK to use. Air conditioning systems that do not bring in air from the outside may be operated.

You may drink or bathe in the water from your faucet. You may eat the food in your house. Food that was outdoors since _____ [time] yesterday may need to be avoided. We have received questions about using potassium iodide (KI) pills. KI will only reduce the radiation dose to one organ, the thyroid, and should be taken as soon as possible after the exposure, as KI pills' effectiveness decreases rapidly. Begin taking KI within the first hour or two after the explosion, or as soon as you can. Continue taking KI until told it is OK to stop. The dose of KI varies according to size in children and age in adults, and also is different for pregnant women.

We request people avoid using telephones, including cell phones, to ensure lines are available for emergency responders. We also request the media not fly over the scene so that airspace is available for emergency air responders, and to reduce air movement around the scene.

We will continue to monitor the area to establish the extent of radionuclide contamination to ensure safety of members of the general public. We will provide a follow-up message in 3 h or sooner if additional information becomes available. This follow-up message is estimated to be issued not later than _____ [e.g., give time as X:XX am/pm].

Source: National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). Responding to a Radiological or Nuclear Terrorism Incident: A Guide for Decision Makers. NCRP report no. 165. Bethesda, MD: NCRP; 2010, pp. 128-129.