




Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.  
STATE HEALTH OFFICER

January 6, 2025

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Alabama Emergency Management Agency; County and State Officials; State Troopers; Sheriff Departments; County Emergency Management Agencies; County Health Departments; FBI; Airport Authorities; Alabama Shipyards; Customs and Border Protection Agencies; Fire and Rescue Personnel; Hospitals and Medical Centers; U.S. Coast Guard; Alabama National Guard Civil Support Team; Alabama Homeland Security; Alabama League of Municipalities; State Health EMS; State Health Center for Emergency Preparedness; Mobile Port Authority; Railroads; and others in need of obtaining assistance or reporting an incident/accident involving radioactive materials or radiation

**FROM:** Cason Coan, Director   
Alabama Dept of Public Health, Office of Radiation Control (ADPH ORC)

**SUBJECT:** RADIATION EMERGENCIES/INCIDENTS AND/OR ASSISTANCE

A significant aspect of ADPH ORC's mission is to assist in managing incidents/accidents involving radiation or radioactive materials. Radiological incidents/accidents may be associated with the daily shipments of radioactive material over Alabama highways, weather-related problems, fires affecting businesses with radioactive material, terrorist activities, etc. ADPH ORC maintains a 24-hour Radiation Control Duty Officer to provide knowledgeable advice for all accidents/incidents involving radiation in Alabama.

With few exceptions, every person (business) in Alabama that possesses and/or uses radioactive material does so under the terms of a license or registration issued by ADPH ORC. The location of storage and use, the type of radioactive material, the amount stored, and emergency contact lists are maintained for every licensee/registrant in Alabama. For incidents involving fire, transportation, natural disasters, and/or terrorist activities, this information would prove valuable in managing a radiological incident. This information can be readily obtained by contacting ADPH ORC.

ADPH ORC staff members are professional radiation physicists with knowledge of dealing with ionizing radiation, including radiation emergencies. Radiation detection instruments are available, including portable radiation monitors for evaluating large numbers of people potentially exposed to contamination. ADPH ORC can assist in obtaining radiological training for first responders and managers. Many training opportunities are available at no cost to the student or employer. Please get in touch with ADPH ORC if you are interested.

Radiological Emergency Assistance Contact information is available on the ADPH website at <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/radiation/contact.html>.

**Also, please check the ADPH ORC website for updates about staff, phone numbers, mailing addresses, and/or any information related to your specific questions.**