

Nuclear Emergencies

The likelihood of a nuclear or radiological incident is remote because of the stringent controls in place for the movement and use of radioactive materials. All levels of government and the operators of nuclear facilities have emergency plans that are ready to be implemented at a moment's notice.

A nuclear emergency could be declared if there is an accident or an intentional release (or threat of intentional release) of potentially harmful radioactive materials. In either situation, exposure to radiation can cause health risks.

Officials will quickly determine the degree of risk from radiation and take immediate measures to limit the dangers. Depending on the incident and health risks, you could be visited by emergency services personnel who would advise you about what to do.

In chemical, biological or nuclear emergencies, it is important to listen to officials for possible evacuation instructions.

During a nuclear emergency, you may be told to **minimize the amount of outside air entering your home**. If so, immediately close doors and windows, then turn off air exchangers and heat-recovery units. Find your emergency kit, turn off appliances and stay indoors until advised otherwise (See [Shelter-in-place](#)).

If you were outside around the time of a nuclear emergency, remove your clothes as soon as possible and seal them in a plastic bag. Rinse your hair and body in the shower and then put on clean clothes from a closed drawer or closet.