

# **Handbook for Survival: Saving Lives During Radiation Releases and Other Disasters<sup>1</sup>**

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Allen Brodsky, Sc.D., CHP, CIH, Dipl. ABR

## **Contact Information**

**Website: [Actions4Survival.com](http://Actions4Survival.com)  
(703)408-1540**

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<sup>1</sup> Requests for further information may be addressed to Dr. Brodsky at [ALBRODSKY@AOL.COM](mailto:ALBRODSKY@AOL.COM).

## PREFACE

This booklet provides basic information to help the individual citizen take proper actions for survival, and avoid the most serious mistakes, in the immediate moments after the release of radioactive or toxic agents. A case is also made that suggested actions and information – such as immediate responses, appropriate sheltering and stocking of provisions -- will also prepare for survival from natural disasters, as well as from radiological, chemical and biological agents.

Appendix C should be read carefully. It includes facts indicating the particular urgency for all citizens to understand and learn minimum actions in this booklet for saving the vast majority of lives in the event of attacks or events releasing radioactive materials. During the past year, you have all heard on the news about the increasing threats to our nation. Those who vow “Death to America” are getting closer to obtaining nuclear weapons, and already possess and can disperse chemical and biological weapons, despite all of our sanctions and negotiations. The ways that those who despise us can obtain nuclear or radioactive materials are described further in my book, by Allen Brodsky, *Actions for Survival: Saving Lives in the Immediate Hours after Release of Radioactive or Other Toxic Agents*, published by MJR Publication, Baltimore, MD, 2011. This book is referenced in the list of references at the end of this booklet as Brodsky 2011). A minimum of references is listed at the end of this booklet in alphabetic order by author, and by date, to provide readers who want to check author qualifications and facts supporting the recommendations in this booklet. I apologize for referencing my own books, but it is the easiest way for me to back up and document my facts, and also introduce interested readers to the vast literature on this subject.

Brodsky (2011) also has more detailed information useful for responders and scientists who arrive on the scene to assist in longer-term protection of the public, and the clean-up of areas for permanent residence.

**"A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences." - Proverbs 22:3**

(Adapted from Shane Connor (2013))

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## **I. Simple Actions to Take at the Moment of an Explosion to Save Life: Most Important to Know.**

**The following Exhibits 1 and 2** provide a minimum of information that members of the public must know to protect themselves in the immediate moments and hours after an explosion to protect against nuclear blast effects and any radioactive that might be released. Some of these actions can be helpful whether a blast sound (explosion) is from bombs, accidents, or natural events such as tornadoes. These simple measures can save many lives, even without further knowledge about blast or other effects.

The first card in **Exhibit 1**, “60-SECOND NUCLEAR DETONATION TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS,” is a small wallet card that has been distributed to thousands of responders in the USA, as well as recently (2013-2014) throughout Japan, by Steve Jones, representing Physicians for Civil Defense. He has volunteered for this life-saving task over many years of visits to fire and emergency department stations.

In **Exhibit 2**, I have revised the brief paragraphs in Exhibit 1 and extended them to apply also to “dirty bombs RDDs” that might be used by terrorists, and also to provide another way of estimating the reductions with time of fallout radiation from nuclear bombs. A card developed by the Homeland Security Committee of the Health Physics Society is also included in my 2011 book, but the simpler lists in Exhibits 1 and 2 are preferred here. The most important caution is that nobody should go to a window or near glass if an explosion is heard or bright flash of light is seen; the first thing to do is duck under something for cover and stay down for at least one minute. A blast wave travels after an instant at about the speed of sound, 5 seconds per mile. If you are 12 miles away, you will not be in the range of destruction of even a likely atomic bomb, but you might be cut by glass if you are near a window.

## Exhibit 1 – Pocket 60-Second Training Card

The bottom half of this card is on the front; the upper part is printed on the back of this card. The one in this picture may be reduced in size, cut out, and folded to imbed in plastic. See reference Jones (2014).

<b>60-SECOND NUCLEAR DETONATION TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS</b>  <b>A.</b> Drop & cover when you see a flash. Stay down behind cover for two full minutes. Even covering with a newspaper can prevent burns. Keep eyes closed during bright light to prevent blindness.  <b>B.</b> 7/10 Rule: Fallout loses 90% of its radioactivity in the first 7 hours after a detonation and an additional 90% for every 7-fold increase in time: 90% in the first seven hours; 99% in 49 hours (two days) and 99.9% in two weeks.  <b>C.</b> Fallout looks like sand, ash or grit as it falls and accumulates on the ground. If no fallout is visible on ground, there is no radiation! To be sure, place a piece of white paper, a dinner plate or anything with a smooth surface on the ground & check every 15 minutes for fallout particles	<p>If visual indications of fallout appear take shelter for two or three days underground or behind thick walls. (These tips are generally true.)</p> <p>This card may be the only nuclear training you get. Knowing A, B, &amp; C, can protect your life and your department.</p> <p>Give a card to each emergency responder in your jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>These principles were developed during nuclear weapons tests from the 1940s-1960s and remain valid today!</b></p> <p><b>The laws of physics do not change.</b></p> <p>This card by: PhysiciansForCivilDefense.org</p>
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## **Exhibit 2 – Simple Immediate Actions to Reduce Injury and Radiation Dose**

(Some revisions and additions to Steve Jones' card as suggested by this author)

**Post this on your refrigerator or reduce the italicized words to place A to C on a wallet sized card for regular review and ready access.**

**A. Drop and cover when you see a bright flash, or sound of a bomb. Do not go near a window that might soon shatter glass. Even covering with a newspaper will reduce burns from an atomic detonation, if outside the immediate areas of destruction. In the case of an atomic bomb, stay down for at least two minutes. Keep eyes closed during any sustained bright flash.**

**B. 7/10 rule for A-bomb radiation: After all fallout deposits in your area on the ground, then every further 7 times the time it reduces at least to another tenth. That is, it loses 90% of its radioactivity in 7 times the time it deposited. If you are close-in enough and the intensity is 100 R per hour at 1 hour, then at 7 hours it will be 10 R per hour, and at  $7 \times 7 = 49$  hours it will be only 1 R per hour.**

Even at 10 R per hour, a family member could go out for one-half hour to obtain food and supplies and receive only 5 R – the permissible annual dose for a worker in peacetime. This would result in no acute illnesses and would at worst result in only a small fractional increase in cancer likelihood many years later.

**For single or multiple radionuclides in an RDD, IND, or nuclear power accidents, Here, the 7/10 rule does not hold. Only the half-lives of the released isotopes that escape the protective building are important.** (See likely isotopes in Brodsky (2011) and acceptable emergency intakes by inhalation, in addition to their half-lives, and further background on my estimates of acceptable concentrations in food and water for 10- and 30-day emergency consumption given in Exhibit 3.

**C. Fallout might look like sand or grit falling down close in from a bomb, but might not be visual at farther distances. You may check to see if close-in fallout has arrived within minutes by observing accumulation of dust on smooth light surfaces. But, do not go outdoors to do so!!**

Better yet, get the easily-read SIRAD dosimeters (stamp or card size in Exhibit 5), or the type of Geiger counter in Exhibit 5 or 6, for your family from Shane Connor. Large purchases of SIRAD dosimeters should be directed to Dr. Gordhan Patel at [sirad@jplabs.com](mailto:sirad@jplabs.com), or JP Laboratories, Inc., 120 Wood Avenue, Middlesex, NJ 08846. Governments should be urged to distribute them.

## **II. Understanding Further Actions to Save Life**

*“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and gaineth understanding, for better merchandise is it than the merchandise of silver, or the gain thereof than fine gold.”*  
Proverbs 6:6

**II-A. First, just a few new words to learn: for understanding protection measures and avoiding fear of radiation under emergency conditions.**

**YOU CAN SKIP THIS SECTION II AND GO ON TO SECTION IV TO PREPARE COMMON SENSE WAYS TO SAVE LIFE DURING AN EMERGENCY, BUT PLEASE:**

- **FIRST READ THE ONE-PAGE LIST OF NEW WORDS IN APPENDIX A;**
- **THEN, TRY TO FIND TIME TO COME BACK LATER AND LEARN THIS INFORMATION TO PREVENT PANIC AND SAVE LIFE DURING RADIATION EMERGENCIES.**

**Reasons for learning a few new words:** Although some reviewers, including some of my scientific friends, have suggested that this booklet be written for a sixth-, or even first-grade level, I will not write for the lowest levels of intellect. I have experience in communicating radiation information to all levels of education – first-grade, eighth-grade, Ph.D., and all levels in between, including public-school and graduate-school classrooms, public forums, before lay juries, to police and firemen in atomic bomb fallout fields in Nevada, and more. Some of the things I have learned are presented in the early chapters of my 2011 book. I have found that those citizens likely to read and use the material in this booklet will have the motivation and ability to understand and use this information to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors or co-workers. I do not want to dilute the facts and concepts that they will need in order to attract a few readers at the lowest levels of education and interest.

Understanding radiation doses and risks should not be as difficult as most people think. However, because reports from the news media often confuse or exaggerate radiation incidents, and our schools do not provide the basics to understand radiation issues, I must define a few quantities here to make the rest of the recommendations for protection understandable.

I will start by introducing each new definition in “plain language.” Even for the very educated reader, it might take some concentration and review to learn the few new words needed to manage your protection from radiation, but certainly much fewer new words than you needed to learn in any courses in elementary school. Your new understanding will be worth it.

**Definitions and Concepts Used in Discussing Radiation Issues:**



**Important Notice:** I must start here with another explanation: why I am introducing two different units for each of the same quantities. The Board of Directors of the Health Physics Society (HPS) has instituted a ban on “**traditional**” international SI units (**R, rad, rem, mR, etc.**) of radiation quantities in radiation protection practice, which have been in use for many decades. **I think that this ban is a big mistake.** The HPS has adopted the practice in its publications to allow the use only of **newer** (circa 1970-80) **Système Internationale (SI) units** recommended by theoretical physicists of the **International Commission on Radiological Units (ICRU)**, whom I believe could not have realized the disadvantages of removing the use of the traditional units that better relate the usual measurements of exposure in air in roentgen units to absorbed doses within the human body. Although as I document in one of the appendices of my 2011 book, members of the **International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)** were originally uncertain about using the ICRU recommendations for unit changes and many did not favor it.

I have circulated a petition to reverse this HPS ban in the United States, for both scientific and practical reasons. I find that many of the scientists and practitioners who responded to my petition have indicated they will still use either or both sets of units. Some of our most outstanding scientists and physicians still have been using mixed units in some of their most recent presentations. **Also, some of the instruments that will be available in the event of an emergency will still use either or both sets of units.** Thus, I will use both sets of units and alternate them in some cases, so you will be familiar with them. Converting from one set to another can be done simply by using multiplying constants that will be presented, and that are easy to remember with just a little practice. **Just know that many who must be “politically correct” will condemn me and anything I write.** I just know that my open-minded readers will examine my evidence and experience as presented here, or upon further inquiry.

**Radiation exposure** – the amount of gamma photons (also called quanta or particles) or beta rays (free and fast electrons) **coming to you** per unit area of your body. Gamma radiation is the most penetrating and most likely to cause early or late effects at high quantities. Beta radiation coming from outside the body penetrates no more than about 1 centimeter beyond the skin surfaces. Levels of contamination on skin that will give high doses are given in my 2011 book. I know from experience working with soldiers in Nevada test fallout that skin contamination can easily be reduced to safe levels by brushing clothing and washing exposed skin with soap and water. Alpha rays (particles) from contamination on the skin cannot penetrate past the dead layer of skin from outside the body. In a very high range of **internal** body concentrations of alpha emitters, animal experiments have shown that cancers can be induced over the animal lifetime. However, autopsy data on deceased humans who were exposed in the United States to internal alpha emitters like plutonium in accident situations, have not shown any cancers from internal doses to the organs exposed, even though some of their doses to “critical organs” like bone have had cumulated dose calculated as up to thousands of rem, even before the latent period for induction of cancer. This is consistent with some animal experiments (see for example Raabe 2011). See also Chapter 4 of my 2011 book, supported by scientific literature references and my own experience. Alpha exposures are not an immediate concern here in emergencies with limited time exposures, despite the frequent reports that “plutonium is the most dangerous toxin of all”.

Radiation instruments for monitoring the worker or public environment have sensitive probes that are used in “free air,” and are not placed inside anyone’s body. Radiation instruments therefore use the original roentgen units (**R or mR**), which can be related with certain physical factors to absorbed doses (see below) at various points in the body. When the entire body is immersed in a fairly uniform field of gamma or x radiation, the readings in air in **R** are often close to the maximum absorbed dose in body tissue in **rad**, and thus for ease in administration and conservative safety, the readings in **R or R per hour** are interpreted as whole body absorbed doses or dose rates.

You are not likely to find radiation instruments using the newer SI units of exposure, which are joules per kilogram (J/Kg).. This is because 1 J/Kg is an amount of exposure of more than 3,700 R, enough to kill someone quickly if a mistake is made in interpreting units. Therefore, when field instruments for surveying radiation levels use the newer SI units, they use absorbed doses in rad or sievert (see below), assuming that the measurement was taken inside the body and that the total body was surrounded with a large beam or field of radiation.

Physicists and physicians working only in diagnostic or therapeutic radiology have now switched to using the new SI units, except that they use centigrays,(cGy) in place of rad. The cGY is a subunit of the gray that does not provide the theoretical benefit originally attractive to the ICRU theorists of having only a 1 in front of every equation. It does not matter to these radiology professionals unless they need to use instruments for field or laboratory monitoring. These days, if they are not involved also with surveys of laboratory safety with radioactive materials, they measure doses only within the body or human-like phantoms, or have other instruments for dosimetry calibrated to such in-body measurements, so they can be “politically correct” with today’s ICRU and NCRP.

**Radiation absorbed dose** – the amount of **energy absorbed** per unit mass of tissue.

**1 rad = 100 ergs per gram for 1 rad);**

**or in the newer SI units, 1 gray (Gy) = 1 Joule per kilogram (J/kg),**

and it turns out that

**1 Gy is equivalent to 100 rad** (a good thing to memorize)

**Thus, 1 rad is equivalent to 0.01 gray (Gy) in the newer SI units.** (another good thing to memorize)

In emergencies where the entire body might be exposed, the absorbed dose is assumed to be an approximate average over the whole body.

An historical point for the interested reader: For simplicity, dose in conventional units was very early rounded to 100 ergs per gram, because 1 R of exposure would deliver a dose of at most 96 ergs per gram to a **small volume of soft tissue in air** at the point of exposure. (A small volume is defined here so that no significant tissue around it would be assumed present to underestimate incident exposures; otherwise, appropriate calculations by scientists need to take into account the absorption in tissues shielding sensitive organs.). **Rather than go further here, just know that stating exposure in R provides a high-sided estimate of the dose to tissues in the body in rad.**

The same is true for biologically-equivalent doses for radiations other than gamma or beta in **rem** (which is **0.01 sievert (Sv)**). It is easy to convert between traditional SI units and the newer SI units by **multiplying or dividing by 100 (or moving decimal places)**, but care in checking such conversions is necessary to avoid dangerous mistakes. (**You might want to practice such conversions as you read through this booklet.**) Many current instruments, such as Geiger counters, can be switched to either set of units, just as a speedometer on your auto can be switched to read either miles per hour or kilometers per hour.)

**Radiation biological dose** -- For specific organs or tissues within the body, “tissue weighting factors

( $w_t$ ),” have been provided by the ICRU and ICRP to adjust for the same risk equivalent to a total body exposure when just the specific organs are irradiated. Multiplying the dose in **rad or Gy** by these factors gives values of equivalent (biological) dose in **rem or Sieverts (Sv), respectively**.

These weighting factors are useful for scientists who later take various measurements of radioactive material in the body, or in body fluids, to estimate internal doses to different body organs, which might have different chances of developing cancer or other effects, from the same doses in energy absorption from radionuclides breathed or ingested into the body. However, except in the rare cases when persons are caught in the radioactive (or “mushroom”) cloud, internal doses are not likely to be as serious as external doses, and would likely be negligible for those indoors during times of maximum fallout and external radiation.

Therefore, for the general citizen’s purposes in providing immediate protection, any measurements from radiation instruments should assume that:

**1 R = 0.01 Gy = 0.01 Sv, and you will be on the safe side, or 1 Gy = 1 Sv = 100 rad = 100 R**

**(Again worth memorizing for immediate understanding of emergency situations.)**

Just practice learning the above equivalents by moving decimals two positions. Obviously, using the newer SI units and thinking they are the traditional SI units could be very dangerous; another reason I advise learning both sets of units and being cautious with decimal points.

**Radioactive material** – any material (food, water, dirt, etc.) that contains any species of unstable atoms that emit ionizing radiation such as alpha, beta, or gamma rays. The unstable atoms are called “**radionuclides**.” Each of the hundreds of radionuclides we deal with has its own radioactive decay rate (transmutation rate) that is described by its **half-life** (see definition below). There are many naturally-occurring “radionuclides” that expose us every day, but these exposures are of low intensity, and it is believed that through the millennia, the human race has evolved with health improvements from these low-level natural exposures.

**Half-life and radioactivity units** -- A particular species of radioactive atom has a half-life, which is the **time it takes for half of the atoms to change (sometimes called “disintegration” or “transformation”)**. Half lives are given in units of time, seconds, minutes, hours, days, or years. Measured or calculated disintegration rates (sometimes called transformation rates), the rates at which atoms decay, are often given in curies (Ci), the newer SI units of becquerels (Bq)(which are disintegrations per second), disintegrations per minute (dpm), disintegrations per second (dps), or transformation rates per second (tps). Half-lives and disintegration rates of radionuclide concentrations in food or water have wide ranges over time, and wide rates in terms such as dpm per gram of pure nuclide, or Bq per kilogram of whatever materials with which they are mixed (Bq/kg or Bq kg<sup>-1</sup>). Actual risks of given rates or doses depend very widely on which radionuclide(s) are in food, water, or already inside human tissues.

**1 Ci = 37 billion atoms decaying per second; 1 Bq = 1 atom decaying per second.**

**(Again, please memorize these new couple of words.)**

(Each atomic nucleus of a specific amount of radioactive material has its own constant chance of decay over time, which leads to this phenomenon of half-life.) Inside the body, a radionuclide is like a tiny, submicroscopic x-ray machine emitting radiation (alpha, beta, and/or gamma) and bombarding nearby cells at close range, decreasing in intensity at its own rate. However, there is also a physiological elimination rate, which is sometimes simply described as a “**biological half-life**”. The

biological half-life, or sometimes a changing rate of biological elimination from specific chemical forms absorbed into the body, is also taken into account in assessing long-term doses and risks of radioactive materials taken into the body by inhalation or ingestion. (See NCRP and ICRP reports, and Federal regulations, Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20 (10 CFR 20), on these calculations and limits of intake. Some are referenced in Brodsky (2011 or 1996).

**NOTE:** Nuclear bombs release the entire spectrum of radioactive fission products produced at the time of explosion. On the other hand, nuclear power reactor accidents release only a few of the isotopes of more volatile elements such as Iodine-131 and Cesium-137, because there are many filtering or deposition stages in pathways for radioactive materials to reach the environment in USA-built and -regulated reactors. I-131 concentrates in the thyroid, which requires at least 20 times the dose in rad (or gray) to produce the same chance of cancer as the same dose to the whole body (if interested, see (Brodsky 2011, page 753)). Cs-137 concentrates in whole body muscles so its dose rate is diluted.

Many, like our son, have received medical radiation doses to their thyroids of thousands of rad (thousands of cGy, which are millions of millirad (mrad)), and they are cured of cancer. Their long-term chances of later cancers from their therapeutic treatments are negligible compared to life-saving benefits of treatment. Regarding doses from Cs-137 intakes from reactor accidents in the USA, none were even measurable after the Three-Mile-Island accident, covered elsewhere in this book. All this is true, despite the many scary stories in the media. In the United States, accidents or mishaps in U.S. nuclear power plants have released extremely small fractions of the radioactive materials present in the reactors.

(See some reasons for relatively low emissions in sub-section V-C later in this book.)

Still, in (Brodsky 2011), some guidance is given as if all radioactive material is released in an attack or accident. Then, the scientist or person evaluating the incident can apply the actual fractions of material determined to be released, in order to estimate doses or risks to the public. (However, see the misinformation in the news article after the Three Mile Island accident, pictured in Exhibit 3 of my 2011 book, and my surrounding evidence in the 2011 book about how Dr. Sternglass circulated an effective million-sized lie in AP press articles all over thenation by not considering fractions released, panicking much of the public.)

**Prefixes** – Because such wide ranges of quantities are discussed, prefixes often precede units, such as:  $\mu\text{Bq}$  means millionths of becquerels;  $\text{mBq}$  means thousandths of Bq;  $\text{kBq}$  means thousands of Bq;  $\text{MBq}$  means millions of Bq; and  $\text{GBq}$  means billions of Bq. The same prefixes are used in stating quantities of exposure or dose. Study them if they are not familiar. Below is a table of prefixes in case you run across them in the media.

#### SI Prefixes

exo (E) --  $10^{18}$  (a billion billion)  
 peta (P) --  $10^{15}$  (a million billion)  
 tera (T) --  $10^{12}$  (a thousand billion)  
 giga (G) --  $10^9$  (a billion)  
 mega (M) --  $10^6$  (a million)  
 kilo (k) --  $10^3$  (a thousand)

deci (d) --  $10^{-1}$  (a tenth)  
 centi (c) --  $10^{-2}$  (a hundredth)  
 milli (m) --  $10^{-3}$  (a thousandth)  
 micro ( $\mu$ ) --  $10^{-6}$  (a millionth)  
 nano (n) --  $10^{-9}$  (a billionth)  
 pica (p) --  $10^{-12}$  (a trillionth)

For example, a gigaBq = a billion Bq, i.e., a billion dps;

a cGy = a hundredth of a Gy = 1 rad, just as a centimeter = a hundredth of a meter.

a  $\mu$ Ci = a millionth of a curie (Ci), which is 37 billion/1,000,000 = 37,000 dps (37,000 Bq)

The above terms will be helpful in estimating your risks (or relative safety) of various levels of radiation exposure as presented in the following section, and in understanding announcements about large, small, or insignificant radiation risks of exposures or doses stated in the media or by local responders or authorities.

## **II-B. Estimating risks of exposures or doses under emergency conditions.**

**II-B-1. Early Acute Effects:** There are **early (or “acute”) effects** of relatively high doses, shown in detail in ranges of whole body doses for adults in **Exhibit 3**. This table was constructed by physicians based on experience with the limited number of accident cases in nuclear processing plants, and from the Chernobyl accident, and is copied from my 2011 book. (Despite some media reports, nobody was killed, either workers or members of the public, from any nuclear power plant accidents in the USA, including that at Three Mile Island.) A **brief summary**, easier to remember, of the approximate dose ranges of these early effects is presented in the following **Exhibit 4**. Children and pregnant women should be limited to doses well below 5 rem if at all possible. Effects on the unborn are reviewed in my 2011 book.

One accident in the Gulf Research facility in the 1960s, in which I measured doses on a mock-up phantom placed in the exposure position of a worker to radiation from a Van de Graaff high-energy accelerator, was reported in (Brodsky and Wald 2004). The measured average dose to bone marrow obtained within two days after the accident was estimated as 600 rad (or rem, or 6 Gy), then confirmed by estimates from rings and dicentric chromosomes in the chromosomes of white blood cells by Dr. Niel Wald. Dr. Wald recommended a bone marrow transplant from an identical twin brother at exactly the right time, which saved the life of the exposed worker. Our experience with this patient can be seen to be consistent with the information in Exhibit 2.

The 600 rad dose above was an average dose to bone marrow all over the body. My measurements of doses to the hands and forearms were about 6,000 rad each. My measurements of the doses to the lower legs were 3,000 rad. Although the bone marrow transplant from the identical twin brother saved the worker's life, he then needed quadruple amputation.

This is an interesting case, managed by my physician supervisor Dr. Niel Wald, in the latter 1960s. It is worth noting not only because of the interesting aspects of such life-saving treatments, but also because many millions of dollars are still being devoted by our homeland security agency for medical researchers to improve knowledge of such life-saving procedures. I am not against research, but must advise that in the situations likely to exist after an accident or attack serious enough to expose many persons in populated areas, it is unlikely that the scarce physicians knowing such procedures would be able to find and treat the more highly exposed persons and save their lives. Therefore, there needs to be available on persons in the public the types of inexpensive SIRAD dosimeters, presented further in this booklet and in detail in Chapter 8, pages 198-206 of Brodsky (2011), that will warn persons if they are accumulating such high doses to seek better shelter, or if they have already received such high doses to seek medical treatment if available. Such dosimeters would also show the vast majority of the public involved with some levels of radiation that they are not in the range where serious health effects would occur, so they would not panic and rush outside for an improper attempt to evacuate.

In 2005, I met with Dr. Charles E. McQueary, a high official in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), who at the time seemed to appreciate the need to distribute inexpensive dosimeters to the public.

He ordered the SIRAD dosimeters tested for accuracy and functionality at the DHS New York research laboratory. Despite the success of the tests (Buddemeir 2007) and the approval of DHS for dosimeter distribution, further officials of DHS failed to advise the States to order them at the relatively small costs of millions, while at the same time spending billions of dollars on fire engines and other familiar responder equipment, which would likely be of little use in saving lives of a public without needed information, panicked and blocking inappropriate evacuation routes.

Thus, it seems that it might take demands from members of the public, like you the reader, to obtain the personal dosimeters of proper range to empower yourself and local responders to act protectively in moments following nuclear or radiological events.

Information for estimating the **chances of late (“chronic”) effects, such as cancers that might appear years after exposure to radiation, is presented in the next section II-B-2, after the following Exhibits 3 and 4.**

## Exhibit 3 – External Radiation Levels vs. Early Effects

**Early effects: Effects from short-term doses to the entire body, doses that are not compensated by repair that can take place when exposures are drawn out.**  
**1 Gy = 100 rad or 100 rem.**

	Degree of severity and corresponding dose range				
Symptoms Listed Below	Mild (1-2 Gy)*	Moderate (2-4 Gy)	Severe (4-6 Gy)	Very severe (6-8 Gy)	Always lethal (8 Gy +)
Vomiting onset	2 hours after dose	1 to 2 hours after dose	Earlier than 1 hour after dose	Earlier than 30 min. after dose	Earlier than 10 min. after dose
% Incidence	10-50 %	70 to 90 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Diarrhea Onset	None	None	Mild	Heavy	Heavy
	----	----	3 to 8 hours	1 to 3 hours	Within 1 hour
% Incidence	----	----	Less than 10 %	More than 10 %	Almost 100 %
Headache Onset	Slight	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Severe
	----	----	4 to 24 hours	3 to 4 hours	1 to 2 hours
% Incidence	----	----	50 %	80 %	80 to 90 %
Consciousness Onset	Unaffected	Unaffected	Unaffected	May be altered	Unconsciousness for secs. or mins.
	----	----	----	----	Seconds/mins.
% Incidence	----	----	----	----	100 % @ > 5 Gy
Lethality	0 %	0 to 50 %	20 to 70%	50 to 100 %	100 %
		Onset 6 to 8 weeks	Onset in 4 to 8 weeks	Onset in 1 to 2 weeks	Lethal in 1 to 2 weeks
Medical Care Needed	Outpatient observation	Observe in general, treat in special hospital, if needed	Treat in special hospital	Treat in special hospital	Palliative treatment only**

\* 1 Gy = 100 rad

\*\* With appropriate supportive therapy, individuals might survive for 6 to 12 months with whole body doses as high as 12 Gy. The worker with an effective dose of 600 rem in Brodsky and Wald (2004), after a bone marrow transplant and quadruple amputation of forearms and lower legs that were in the beam,, died at age 55 from heart failure, as did his twin unexposed brother.

**This table was adapted from Tables 1 and 3 in F. Mettler, A. K. Gus’Kova, and I. Gusev, “Health effects of those with acute radiation sickness from the Chernobyl accident,” Health Physics, Vol. 93(5):462-469; 2007.**

## Exhibit 4 – Summary of Radiation Doses for Early Effects Ranging from Harmless to Lethal

Simple table of external radiation levels vs. acute effects, for “whole body exposure”:

### ACUTE RADIATION EXPOSURE

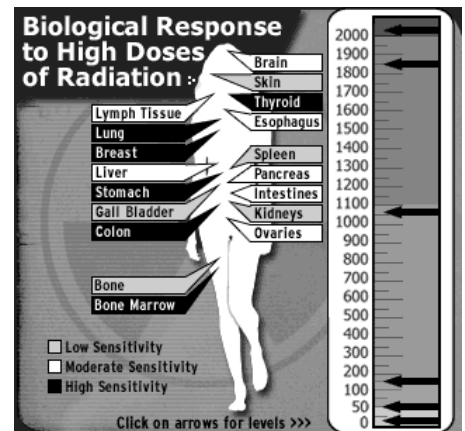
**0-25 rads:** No observable effect

**25-100 rads:** Slight blood changes

**100-200 rads:** Significant reduction in blood platelets and white blood cells (temporary)

**200-500 rads:** Severe blood damage, nausea, hair loss, hemorrhage, death in many cases

**>600:** Death in less than two months for over 80%



Note: 200 rad = 200 rem = 2 Gy = 2 Sv for our purposes.



**II-B-2. Long-Term Effects:** For the majority of those likely to be involved with measurable amounts of radiation, **various cancers** might occur years after exposures to amounts of radiation yielding doses from external whole body irradiation above about 20 rem (0.2 Sv). Estimating the risks of cancer will suffice for this handbook, because other late radiation effects, including hereditary effects, have been found to be small relative to cancers, and the lifetime detriment of these others effects has been absorbed by ICRP and NCRP recommendations into the cancer risk factors for our practical purposes.

Estimates of the chances of radiation-caused cancers as a function of dose were made by scientists and physicians examining over the years medical data and dose estimates to those exposed to the atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. They also used animal experiments in making risk estimates. My view of the best estimates of cancer risks (chances of getting cancer) for higher doses are those published in ICRP reports from 1977 to 1990 by the work of Dr. Warren Sinclair, who served as Chair of NCRP for many years following the retirement of its founder Lauriston Taylor. The many demographic translations and mathematical models used by Dr. Sinclair to obtain risks for U.S. citizens from the Japanese survivors are too complex to present here. (These methods may be examined by those interested in this science as reviewed in Brodsky (1996), or in the original ICRP reports referenced there.) Only summary estimates of risk are given here, which use high-sided estimates of the effectiveness of long-term exposure compared to that of the prompt gamma and neutron exposures encountered at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

These estimates are also made using a **linear dose-response model without (no) threshold (LNT model)**, for purposes of deriving peacetime dose limits for managing radiation exposures to workers and the public under controllable conditions.

Moreover, these ICRP and NCRP estimates do not take into account the evidence for **hormetic effects** at lower dose ranges (protective, adaptive, and beneficial effects observed at acute dose levels below about 20 rem, and at low and much higher levels spread over long time intervals). Dr. T. Donald Luckey in 1980 and 1991 published comprehensive reviews of thousands of references to published scientific articles in which lower level radiation exposures were found to be beneficial to the life of organisms consisting of only single cells up to animals and humans (Luckey 1991). He coined the term “**hormesis**,” which is derived from the same Latin word as hormone, because Dr. Luckey found that lower doses stimulated beneficial biochemical and physiological reactions in many species. Dr. Luckey was Chairman of Biochemistry at the University of Missouri. (Bless his soul, Don Luckey just passed away at 94 in March 2014.)

Those interested in the evidence of hormetic effects are referred to only a few books and articles here, which would lead them into further literature (Cuttler 2014; Luckey 1991; Goldberg 2009; Hiserodt 2005; Rockwell 2003; Brodsky 1996; and my update of Chapter 4 of the 2001 book included in Chapter 4 of Brodsky 2011). Books other than mine also put radiation risks in better perspective with other risks.

However, although no further information is given here about hormetic effects of low or extended doses of radiation, consider, for the time being, how selenium is now found to be a

necessary element for health in small concentrations (see the information on your bottle of vitamin pills). When I was on Enewetok as an Army physicist working on the first hydrogen bomb test in November 1952 at age 24, I consulted an Army physician for something to remove my dandruff; I was already worried about losing my hair. He gave me a prescription for Selsun and warned me not to get any in my eyes or inside my body. The smallest quantities were deemed poisonous. Now, in 2014 and for many years, I have been able to buy hair products with selenium over the counter without a prescription. Selenium (Se) is now in my vitamin pills and considered an essential nutrient in the amounts in the pill. I thus have still not been poisoned, but am now benefiting for many years from the hormesis of the lower amounts of Se.

References in the paragraph above will give many other examples of beneficial hormetic effects at lower doses, of substances that are poisonous or harmful at higher levels of intake.

**Maximum risk factor from LNT model:** Note: **The word risk is not used here always to imply danger, but only as another word to mean chance (of cancer, etc.) The word risk may be used here, for instance, to say, “The risk of any health effects is zero; there is no danger and the risk might be negative and mean that there are hormetic or beneficial effects at these dose levels”.**

The following estimate of the long-term chances of cancer deaths shows the relatively low proportional increase in death from cancer in a responder (or citizen saving a family) if under the recommended limit for emergency exposure of 25 rem (0.25 Sv) acute dose, assuming hormetic effects are not considered to be effective at this dose level. The estimate is probably high-sided, but is taken from information in a book by two of my very competent friends (Cember and Johnson 2009, page 327), who reference, for use above about 10 rem, the risk factors used by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP 1991). The following sentences in italics are my own adaptation:

*“The **maximum** estimated chance of dying from long-term cancer for chronic gamma exposures is 5 chances in 10,000 per rem (5 chances in 100 per Gy). This means that if you receive a general whole body dose of 25 rem during a rescue or to get food, during the first day of an incident, you will have at most a chance of  $25 \times 5/10,000 = 0.0125$  chance of dying of cancer later in life. This chance is the same as 1.25 percentage (%) points. The current rate in peacetime from all causes in the USA is 24%.*

*Therefore, using this risk factor, a 25 rem dose would increase your natural risk of 24% to 25.25%, but these calculations can not be assumed accurate for a particular person.*

Remember, as cited in the references discussing hormetic effects, as dose is lowered down toward 10 rem and lower, protective effects come in at different levels for different individuals, and these protective effects can not only lower the chances of later cancers, but also promote immune system activity that even decreases the chances of other serious diseases.

Nevertheless, the above risk factor used at 25 rem can be multiplied at that level and at higher acute doses to estimate chances of late cancers when higher doses must be received for the saving of life. Certainly, most of us at an adult age would readily take such a risk of late cancer in order to save a member of family, or even a neighbor, since this dose is below where any

immediate ill effects would occur or be felt (**Exhibits 3 and 4**). Note, moreover, that when older persons are available for rescue or life-saving, the **oldest able person should volunteer to perform the rescue, since the latent period for cancer to develop may reduce the chances of cancer during his lifetime.**

One further reminder: We all know of friends or members of our family who have undergone radiation treatments to enhance the possibilities of removing cancers. For breast cancer treatments, for example, a total dose of about 6,000 rad is given in 200 rad per day treatments, five days per week, for about six weeks. Each treatment, for someone in my family, is delivered in a moving beam at 600 rad per min, for about 20 seconds, from a linear accelerator. This spreading out of this large 6,000 rad dose spares injury to healthy tissues more than to any still-encapsulated tumors, so these radiation treatments are often successful in curing the cancer.

Now, referring back to the previous section on acute effects, we see that the dose to the hands and forearms happened to be measured as 6,000 rad, and the dose to the lower legs as 3,000 rad, for the worker who then needed quadruple amputation (Brodsky and Wald 2004). The exposure time of the worker, estimated from the radiation beam intensity, was also about 1.5 minutes. Thus, it is clear that the spreading-out of doses even as high as 6,000 rad over six weeks, although given in 30 acute 30-second doses of 200 rad each for six weeks, prevents complete destruction of breast, lung, and heart tissues that are in the beam or its penumbras. Such a 6,000 rad dose would lead to death of the patient if the 6,000 rad was given in one treatment time rather than 30 over six weeks.

As recent literature on radiation effects shows, this lowered risk of doses spread over time also applies to the long-term cancer effects of even the higher doses that might be received after an incident. However, the “expert” bodies that recommend limits for peacetime exposure of workers and the public use only one conservative factor of two to reduce the risk factor given above for use in long-term exposures, and still assume that the same resulting risk factor applies no matter the amount of time over which the exposure is received. These expert bodies, also perhaps for simplicity in managing peacetime radiation protection programs, also assume that the effects of all doses are cumulative, no matter the amount of time over which they are spread. These doses would not be cumulative when received over long times when the tissues are subject to repair, or when hormetic effects occur at the lower dose levels.

Regulatory agencies in the USA and elsewhere have constrained themselves over the years to follow recommendations of the ICRP and NCRP in writing formal regulations consistent with the recommendations of these expert bodies. Thus, it can be expected that some authorities in the USA will not be familiar with the literature quoted in this handbook, and might object to my recommendations. But note here, they will be wrong. When radioactive material is released in large amounts in an **uncontrolled** manner, the best scientific knowledge of radiation effects, including hormetic effects, must be used to prevent panic and save lives.

**Bottom Line:** For acute doses above 20 rem for an individual adult of average age, the LNT-estimated risk factor of 5 chances in 10,000 rem (cSv) may be used to obtain an **upper limit** of risk of a later cancer.

Note however, that a scientist whom I know to be outstanding and reliable has recently examined much of the relevant literature over the past 100 years (Cuttler 2013a,b,2014a,b). He suggests, based on his review, that about 70 rem/year (at 0.2 rem per day) is a level above which some elevation of cancer risk can occur, but below which hormetic effects are likely to overcome them. I have checked some of his references and he also shows that his conclusions are similar to those made earlier by Dr. Lauriston Taylor, founder of the NCRP, who had originally supported this dose and dose rate as a reasonable NCRP standard that would produce no ill effects.

However, remember that a given dose, when accumulated over a longer time, presents a **smaller** risk the **longer** the time over which it is accumulated, either for relatively acute or long-term effects. When these doses total below about 10 rem, there will also likely be protective effects that not only cancel the risks calculated by the above risk factor, but also stimulate hormetic effects that protect against other diseases.

Raabe (2011) has shown, with extensive collections and analyses of his own data as well as those of others, that when internal doses are spread at low dose rates over a lifetime, there are effective thresholds so that total internal doses of up to 1,000 or more rem do not result in late cancers, even for radioactive species that are considered to be those that are the more dangerous – such as plutonium and strontium-90.

### **Why We Should NOT Believe That “Any Radiation is Dangerous”**

We have already discussed the evidence that shows, even without hormetic effects, at low doses or dose rates that might accumulate what have been considered high total doses by some current radiation standards, Raabe’s experiments show that there is an effective threshold for inducing cancer during the lifetimes of animals (with other evidence (e.g.,Cuttler 2013,2014) showing even beneficial effects at such dose levels). However, there are still some official government documents that state, “There is no safe level of radiation dose,” which is the same as saying, “Any radiation is dangerous.” As we have shown in the italicized paragraph above, even with the LNT hypothesis and without recognizing the evidence for hormetic effects, an acute radiation dose, or even a long-term cumulative dose, as high as 25 rem, or even higher, does not increase the prevalence rate of lethal cancers more than a fraction of a percent. (Using a dose-and- dose-rate-effectiveness factor (DDREF) of the ICRP only reduces the estimate of long-term cancer risk by a factor of two.) Therefore, even a 25 rem dose should not be called “dangerous”; this would scare even responders who would otherwise feel justified receiving such a dose to save lives. I am afraid that much of our official responder training will scare responders unduly.

The next section presents some doses received from various activities that are familiar to anyone. It might be useful to examine the risks of each activity or medical treatment, using the risk information above in this section. In the case of a medical treatment or exposure to only a portion of the body, a rough estimate of the risk may be obtained using the estimated fraction of the body exposed, as well as the general high-sided risk factor. More specific weighting factors are provided by the ICRP and NCRP, but this detail is not necessary here for most citizens.

### III -- Ranges of Radiation and Concentrations of Radioactivity from Everyday Sources

**Radiation doses from natural sources:** Knowing the meanings of the terms above, you can now just examine the following **Exhibit 5** in this booklet to be familiar with the doses of natural levels of radiation and radioactivity that are present around you in ordinary everyday life. If you care to check references, you can also check and compare radiation and radioactive contamination levels from nuclear accidents, or from likely or possible terrorist attacks. (Buddemeir et al. 2011; Brodsky 1982, 2011)

**Radioactivity levels from natural sources:** A discussion of radioactivity in natural sources is presented after the **Exhibit 5** on the following page, for comparison with those that might be measured after an accident or terrorist attack

#### Exhibit 5 – Natural and Common Radiation Doses

## Typical Radiation Doses

**Annual dose from living near a nuclear power plant < 1 millirem**

<b>Flight from Los Angeles to London</b>	<b>5 mrem</b>
<b>Annual public dose limit</b>	<b>100 mrem</b>
<b>Annual natural background</b>	<b>300 mrem</b>
<b>Fetal dose limit</b>	<b>500 mrem</b>
<b>Barium enema (limited part of body)</b>	<b>870 mrem</b>
<b>Annual radiation worker dose limit</b>	<b>5,000 mrem</b>
<b>Heart catheterization (skin dose)</b>	<b>45,000 mrem</b>
<b>Life saving actions guidance (NCRP-116)</b>	<b>50,000 mrem</b>
<b>Mild acute radiation syndrome (if whole body dose)</b>	<b>200,000 mrem</b>
<b>LD 50/60 for human (bone marrow dose) (whole body dose)</b>	<b>350,000 mrem</b>
<b>Radiation therapy (localized &amp; fractionated)</b>	<b>6,000,000 mrem</b>

(Here, all doses except the medical diagnostic doses of barium enema, heart catheterization, and the cancer therapy doses, are assumed to be delivered over the entire body, which is the usual assumption when discussing fallout doses from nuclear accidents or bombs. **Remember that 5 mrem = 0.05 mSv; 200 mrem = 20 Sv; and 6,000,000 mrem is the same as the 6,000 rem (or rad for our purposes) delivered only to breast in cancer treatment, as discussed in Section II.)**

These numbers represent some USA natural average background and commonly encountered doses, and some regulatory peacetime “limits” (which I have helped promulgate, but which do not indicate thresholds of harm). Similar dose ranges would be applicable in Japan. These numbers can vary somewhat depending on your own activities and where you live. Population medical exposures have been widely reported to have increased due to CT scanning, but unfortunately these reports, and exaggerated estimates of harmful effects, have not been presented in context with lives saved. This is unfortunate, because many citizens have avoided CT scans and other radiology exams that could have saved their lives. The doses to the public in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant in normal peacetime operation are so low as not to be measurable; only estimates are given at the top of the table. In contrast, some dose rates inside the failed nuclear plants in the Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and the Japanese disasters, have been so high that workers close to the reactors have needed to take turns limited to minutes in order to carry out possible corrective or recovery tasks. This shows the need to understand the effects of radiation doses and intensities over a very wide range.

**Radioactivity levels from natural sources:** About 70 of 340 nuclides found in nature are radioactive. Potassium-40 (K-40) atoms are a small fraction of the potassium atoms that enter the body with salt intake, and are needed in our bodies to maintain our heart beats. The K-40 cannot, and need not, be separated from the non-radioactive K-39 atoms. The dose delivered is not a risk (such a dose is NOT dangerous). The internal dose from K-40 is the highest internal dose from naturally-occurring radioactive material taken into the body, except possibly for the theoretical calculations of dose to lung tissue from radon daughters. Although these K-40 atoms have a half-life of 1.26 billion years, and each atom upon decay emits 1.46 MeV gamma rays only 11% of the time, there are so many of these atoms in our bodies that the internal dose per year from the beta and gamma radiation is in the range of 10 to 20 mrem per year, compared to our overall dose from natural background and radon daughters of about 300 mrem per year. (I have often had my students do a homework problem to calculate their doses from natural K-40.)

The gamma radiation from the K-40 is so easy to detect with modern radiation detectors that, when I was Technical Director of Radiation Medicine at Presbyterian Hospital (under Chairman Niel Wald, M.D., of the Radiation Health Department, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh) I used my own body sitting in a lawn chair inside our counting room (called a “whole body counter”) at the hospital to calibrate my own equipment. Details of this experience are in the references (Brodsky 2011).

By comparison with the dose from natural potassium, I was also able to measure the amounts of cesium-137 (Cs-137) in my body from worldwide fallout from hydrogen bomb tests in my whole body counter. Agreements with the Soviets ended the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in 1963. Thus, peak amounts of fallout Cs-137 in our bodies occurred in the USA population in the 1963-64 era; about the same concentrations must have occurred in the Japanese population about that time.

Our whole body counter at the University of Pittsburgh opened for operation in 1964-1965, for checking persons in the Pittsburgh area who had inhaled plutonium, americium, and fission products from the then-blooming nuclear-related operations in Western Pennsylvania (see Brodsky and Wald (2004). Soon after our operations began, I measured about 3 nanocuries (nCi) total of Cs-137 in my body, mainly distributed in my muscle tissues. I do not remember the dose-rate to my body exactly, but it was certainly well below several millirem per year in 1964. The radioactivity in my body decreased each year thereafter due to the 30-year half-life of Cs-137 and the relatively short physiological half-life of cesium, as well as the decreasing amounts entering the body from fallout after cessation of the atmospheric nuclear tests. A few millirem per year is nothing to fear.

Certainly, the emissions from the Japanese reactors, without the stratospheric transport and much lower radioactive content than the hundreds of detonated nuclear bombs, could not affect anyone in the United

States, and authoritative reports so far indicate that neither will the Japanese be seriously affected by radiation from the reactor emissions at Fukushima, compared to the extreme suffering caused by the tsunami.

In addition to cesium, the iodine nuclides are among the most volatile; I-131 and other iodines that might be inhaled if within hours of release, contribute doses to the thyroid gland. After the Windscale accident in England, which released about 20,000 curies (Ci) of Iodine-131, a limit of 0.1 microcuries per liter of milk was set to limit infant thyroid doses to less than 20 rem (Brodsky 2011; 1960).

(The 2011 book shows that this British limit happens to be consistent with the safety factor of 20 that I recommended in general for infant exposure compared to adult limits, in my review of Chapter 4 of that book. The Washington Post article by Andrew Higgins (2011) indicated that a farmer near the Fukushima site who refused to evacuate and continued to consume milk and food from his farm showed no internal radioactive material at all within his body when measured, even from the early effluents from the damaged nuclear reactors.)

## **IV – Further Preparations to Improve Chances of Saving Lives**

### **IV-A – Stocking Necessary Supplies to Last Until Normal Deliveries Can Be Expected**

The serious survivalist who is willing to spend time and effort for maximum protection has extensive information available for optimum protection of himself and family. This information, in many studies over many years, has been developed by civil defense and other survivalist organizations that can be found on the internet by searching the words “survival” or “survivalist.” The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on ready.gov has many recommendations for stocking food and emergency supplies; the DHS website also provides a checklist for a Family Emergency Plan in case family members are separated, and provides questions and answers that convey appropriate preparations for dealing with a radiation emergency. Much of this information is assembled starting on page 152 of Brodsky (2011), which can be downloaded inexpensively as an e-book from Amazon.com.

Many more articles with details and explanations for further preparations may be obtained from the 1968 to 2014 issues of the Journal of Civil Defense, available to members of The American Civil Defense Association; membership is available at a very low cost at the website [www.tacda.org](http://www.tacda.org). The Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons (JAPS), from which the trauma care information from Hatfill and Orient (2013) is summarized in a further section of this handbook, also has many articles helpful for comprehensive preparations to survive either natural or man-made disasters. The JAPS can be obtained from the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Inc. (AAPS), by contacting [www.jpands.org](http://www.jpands.org) or (800) 635-1196

Regardless of the time and effort available for preparations, every family and citizen should be able to prepare the most essential items needed for an extended emergency by noting the items and medications used every day for a couple of weeks. Then, they should purchase these items from local stores BEFORE an emergency (hurricane, accident, etc.) occurs, because stores will run out of items rapidly if a disaster is expected to be imminent. The following is a short list of the most essential items:

- Water, one gallon per day per person for at least three days, and preferably at least two weeks, for drinking and sanitation. This can be obtained by purchasing a limited number of bottles of water, and also by having a clean tub available to fill before cutoff of supplies, and learning how to obtain water from your water heater. Inexpensive filter equipment available in local stores should be purchased, if not already owned, for all drinking water.
- Food, non-perishable, such as canned or bottled vegetables, fruit, chicken-vegetable soups. Most families should probably plan to use only foods that have been sheltered within their homes, or are in closed cans or bottles that can be washed with soap and water before being opened.
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.
- Flashlights and extra batteries. Light is needed to allow reading and prevent depression. Avoid candles and open fire; they use up oxygen needed for breathing in a tight room.
- First Aid kit. Also, see the need to train for immediate care of trauma victims in section IV-D.
- Whistle to signal for help when needed.
- Dust mask, to filter contaminated air, and plastic sheeting and duct tape to seal shelters (although as I explain in this book and my 2011 book, the risks of breathing hazardous amounts of radioactive material are extremely low, and ordinary dust masks will not likely protect against toxic chemicals or biologicals. Still, being indoors in a closed room will likely provide considerable protection in either case.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Chemical toilet, or improvised toilet made with 6-gallon can, toilet seat, garbage bags, perfumed detergent, draped and placed near entrance of shelter.
- Wrench and pliers to turn off utilities, or obtain water from heater. Crow bar in case anyone close to a blast or in natural storm is pinned and unable to escape.
- Can openers for canned foods.
- Local maps for use with information on safe areas for later evacuation.
- Prescription medications, eye glasses.
- Infant formula and diapers, if pertinent.
- Pet food and extra water for pets, if pertinent.
- Important family documents such as insurance policies, identifications, bank account records, in waterproof, portable container.
- Cash, or traveler's checks and change.
- Emergency reference book or information from ready.gov.
- Sleeping bag of warm blanket for each person. Additional bedding in cold climate.
- Complete changes of clothing and sturdy shoes, tailored to climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. Disinfected water is made with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach, or 16 drops household liquid bleach per gallon water. Do not use scented, color-safe, or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher. But do not use with persons in closed space.
- Matches in a waterproof container.
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items.
- Soap, detergents, washcloths, towels, and large can for soiled items.
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, plastic utensils, paper towels.



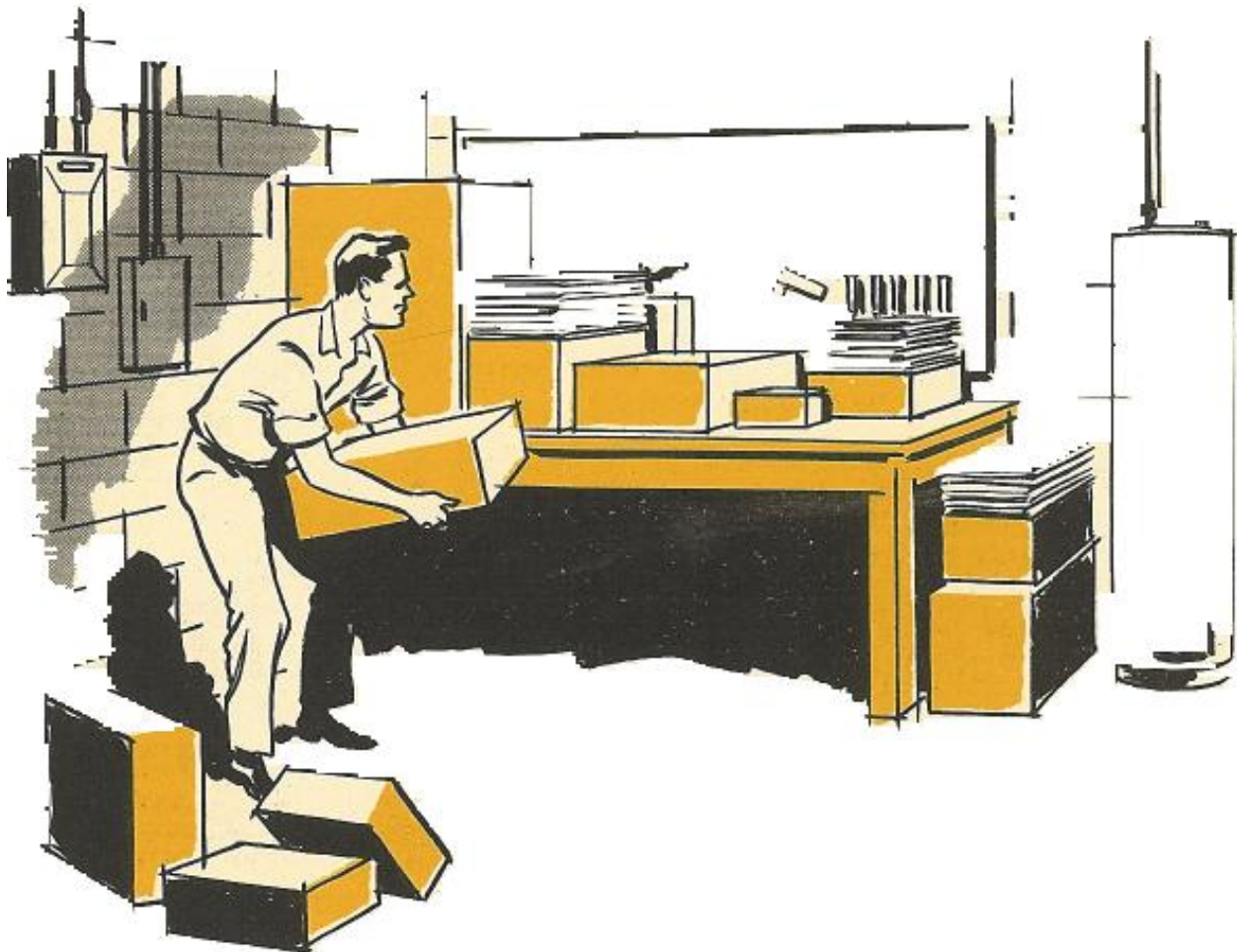
- Paper, pencils and lots of pens.
- Book, games, puzzles, or other activities for children. Books for adults.
- Inexpensive personal radiation dosimeters in everyone's pocket (**Exhibits 9 and 10**), and preferably at least one Geiger counter in each shelter (**Exhibits 11 and 12**).
- This Handbook, to review protections from radiation and when additional shielding might be needed (although not likely for the vast amount of areas outside the immediate blast zones). See following sections IV-B and IV-D and **Exhibit 6**.

**Note:** In addition to common items, it is desirable to have, for each family group, an inexpensive personal radiation dose measuring instrument in each person's pocket like those in **Exhibits 9 and 10**, and (if affordable) a portable geiger counter, like the ones shown in **Exhibits 11 and 12**. The chemical SIRAD dosimeters in **Exhibit 9** are very inexpensive (about \$15 each), if ordered in quantity; the pocket ionization chamber in **Exhibit 10** can often be purchased for \$100 or less, depending on its range, or some can be obtained in courses given to teachers by the Health Physics Society; the geiger counters in **Exhibit 11 and 12** could cost several hundred dollars or more each, but could be affordable if several persons or neighbors pitched in to buy a few. A list of vendors provided by the Health Physics Society (HPS) is in Brodsky (2011), and can be found currently by checking the HPS website.

#### IV-B – Building or Planning to Use Shelters in Home or At Work

The planning or building of shelters can range from the simple makeshift shelter in a basement, as shown in **Exhibit 6**, using the information in **Exhibit 7**, to planning a place in a building using the protection factors shown in **Exhibit 8**. The kind of shelter built or planned at home will depend on the resources of the family. More livable shelter designs are included in my 2011 book, with reference to those in early recommendations of civil defense organizations in the 1950s-1960s. Shelters available commercially with installation can be examined on the site of KI4U. Materials should at least be stored that can be used to construct at least ad hoc shelters of the home-made type in **Exhibit 6**. Even the makeshift type of shelter shown in **Exhibit 6** could provide some likely protection from homes destroyed by hurricanes or tornadoes. There have been some reports on our weather channels of persons who survived tornadoes while most of their homes were destroyed, because they at least provided one strong room where they could survive.

**Exhibit 6 – Preparing a Makeshift Shelter with Planned Shielding Materials**



## Planning or building shelters at home

The following **Exhibit 7** gives the density, and the thickness for 1/5<sup>th</sup> reduction of gamma intensity, of commonly available materials that can be stocked or used at home to build shelters.

**Exhibit 7 – Table of Approximate Densities, and Thicknesses for One-Fifth Gamma Reduction, of Common Materials (for Broad Beams of Radiation)**

Material	Density (pounds per cubic foot)	Thickness for 1/5 <sup>th</sup> reduction (inches)
Wood (birch, oak, maple, etc.)	40	17.5
Paper (compacted in books)	56	12
Water (or human tissue)	62.4	11
Earth (loose)	75	9.3
Sand (dry)	100	7
Brick (common)	110	6.4
Concrete block (solid)	140	5.0

Solid concrete block is seen to be the most effective of the above materials for attenuating the gamma radiation from nuclear bomb fission products, and this would also apply to single radionuclides likely to be used in “dirty bombs.” To use **Exhibit 7** for different wall thicknesses, note that a three-concrete- block thick wall would reduce the radiation intensity to  $1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 = 1/125^{\text{th}}$  of the outdoor intensity at ground level. Steel reinforcement using hollow concrete blocks filled with concrete after the steel rods are in place would also provide considerable protection against blast effects for the family.

Exhibit 18 in my 2011 book shows an above-ground shelter I designed and had built behind the doors to my patio in my home in the late 1950s. It had steel rods placed as shown between two concrete-block walls, with concrete poured into the blocks after the rods were in place, and then (after the concrete hardened) sand poured between the two walls in a space thick enough to give a radiation protection factor of 1/5000<sup>th</sup> and a blast protection of 30 pounds per square inch max. This shelter was built in the cold war era to protect my family at five miles from a 15 megaton hydrogen bomb attack. Note that 15 megatons of TNT is equivalent to 1,000 times 15 kilotons (kT) of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, and equivalent to  $15,000,000 \times 2,000 = 30,000,000,000$  (30 billion) pounds of TNT. My above ground shelter cost me \$5,000 to build behind a \$12,000 home in Baltimore County in the late 1950s. This kind of shelter would be the ultimate for protection against blast, radiation, chemical and biological agents (if properly sealed and ventilated through filters), and all type of hurricanes or other natural disasters above water levels. It would likely cost over \$60,000 today, unless the government or some private consortium would promote it as a boost to the construction industry, with standard designs and materials.

## Planning protection at work

At work, a person should plan to seek the room in the strongest building in **Exhibit 8** that he can get to within a few minutes, without staying at or looking through any windows in the meantime.

A blast wave from a nuclear explosion travels, after an initial burst, about a mile in each 5 seconds. A healthy person in an urban area can at least enter a nearby building in 30 seconds or seek an inside room of an office building. This action alone, going inside a building, with duck and cover as in **Exhibits 1 and 2**, will also greatly reduce any radiation dose or contamination from descending radioactive fallout.

Note that in **Exhibit 8** the deepest levels below ground can have protection factors > 200. Suppose there was 10 feet of earth alone between the underground shelter and the outside surface. From the table in **Exhibit 7** above, the 10 feet would be  $120/9.3 =$  about 13 fifth-thicknesses. This thickness, even for loose earth with no protective concrete or building above, would give a reduction factor of about

$$\begin{aligned} &1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \times 1/5 \\ &= 1/(62,500,000,000), \end{aligned}$$

which is less than one sixty-two-billionth. So, no fallout radiation intensity would remain in the lowest level in Exhibit 11.

A rule of thumb from civil defense days is that an area thickness of 300 pounds behind each square foot of wall would give a reduction factor to one five-thousandth of the incoming radiation. Thus, it may be assumed that the equivalent amount of weight behind each square foot of wall in my shelter above, of the late 1950s, would be equivalent to  $300/(140 \text{ pounds per cubic foot}) = 2.14$  feet thickness of concrete. This is about right for the two concrete block walls filled in between with sand in my shelter of the late 1950s.

This information in the last two paragraphs can be helpful to anyone designing his own home shelter also. My calculations may be easily checked by careful use of simple arithmetic by the interested reader. Please let me know if I made any mistakes.

## Discussion about shelter policies

As indicated in my 2011 book, early civil defense scientists designed and tested strong shelters that would withstand blast, as well as shield occupants from radiation. Switzerland passed a law in 1950 that every home must have such a strong shelter and it must be used regularly for some family activity so that it would be maintained in good living condition. About 95% of Swiss families have such shelters in their homes today. Other nations have followed suit.

It would be easy for our nation to put such shelters in almost every home, if someone in government or those in the building industry would take the lead. It would also help the construction industry. If we truly care about human life, let us urge our government leaders and builders to initiate national shelter construction. References to documents on shelter construction, a photo of an extremely strong shelter, and companies that can provide shelters, are included in Brodsky (2011) and available from Connor (2014).

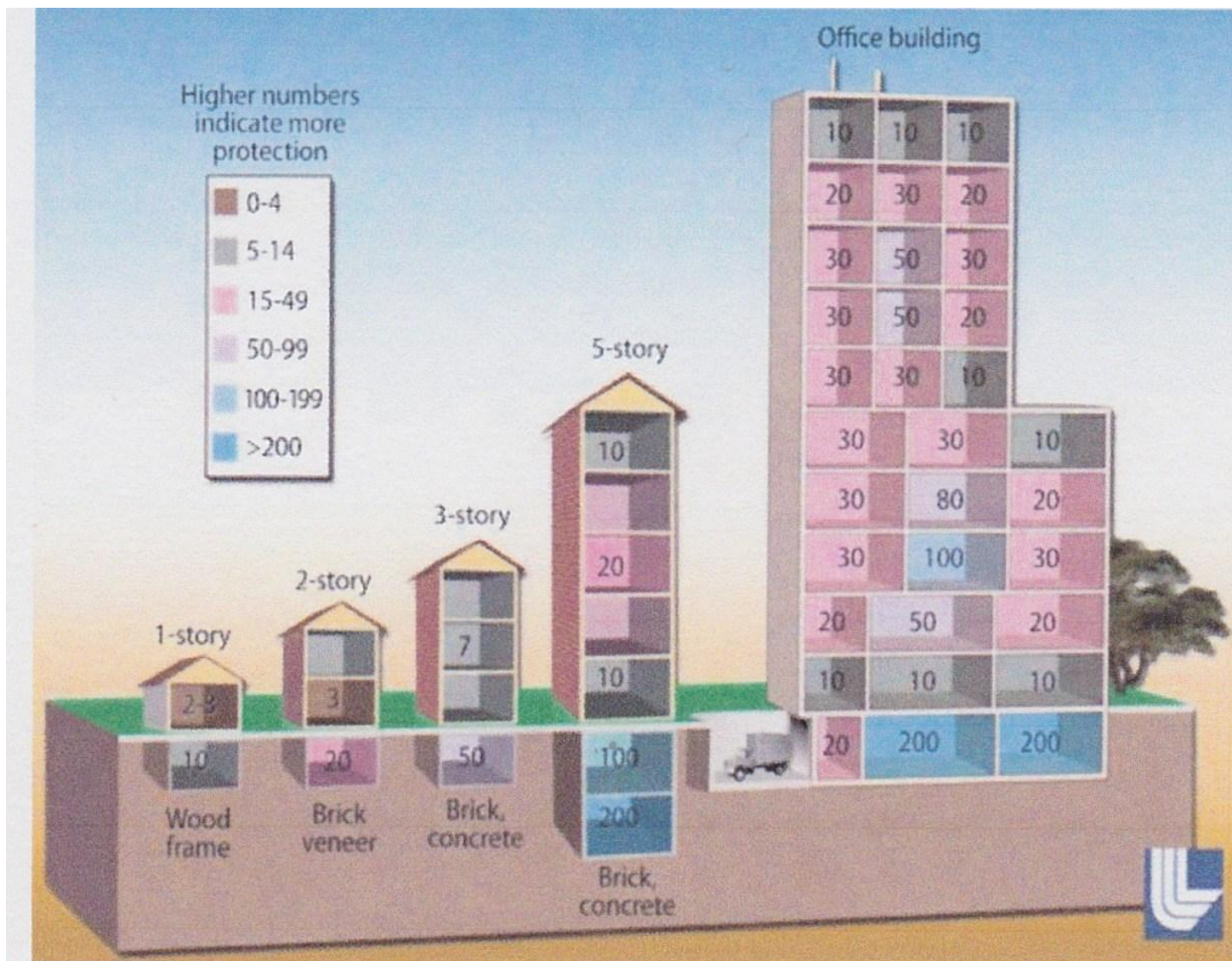
It is strongly recommended that all citizens demand a better national shelter program as we urged in the early civil defense era of the 1960s, and as adopted by Switzerland in the 1950s. It would promote many important jobs for the building industry, rather just the overbuilding and selling of condominiums that have reduced home prices. More important, reinforced concrete shelters built to protect citizens from the blasts of atomic bombs at one mile or more distance would also protect, if properly sealed and provided

with clean air for breathing, from many other toxic agents, and from other natural or other man-made disasters. A range of shelters for protection at different cost levels is presented in my 2011 book. Shelters are available in large, strong buildings, or underground, as illustrated in (Buddemeir and Dillon 2009; Buddemeir *et al.* 2011), but the public has not been adequately prepared to use them. Purchases or assistance in shelter construction and emplacement may also be obtained from [shane@ki4u.com](mailto:shane@ki4u.com) , or by googling the word “shelters.”

**Exhibit 8 – Protection Factors at Various Locations in a Variety of Buildings**  
**(Picture from Buddemeir and Dillon (2009) with adaptation of their information)**

The protection factors in this **Exhibit 8** range from low to high in order of the estimated approximate amount of protection from nuclear gamma radiation from deposited fallout after a nuclear attack. This means that a protection factor of **>200** would reduce your exposure to **less than 1/200<sup>th</sup>** of that which you would receive standing on the open ground. Such a protection factor of 1/200<sup>th</sup> would likely save your life, even if you were in an area where the mushroom cloud deposited the greatest amount of fallout early after an explosion; of course, this would mean you were also in a protected location out of the 1-mile radius of heavy blast destruction, if the blast were from an approximately 15 kiloton bomb like those of Hiroshima or Nagasaki. The majority of an urban population would be farther away than that, but could still receive measurable radiation; the amounts of radiation would depend on wind directions and the presence or absence of rain or snow. These factors would also most likely approximate those from any radionuclides present in so-called “dirty bombs.”

**Note: Again.** There is a less-than sign (<) before the 200 in the left indicator of number ranges. The deepest level below ground in a multi-story building will have factors much great than 200 (see previous page above indicating much greater protection in level well below ground, as in an underground parking lot).





## **IV-C – Instruments or Dosimeters to Measure Doses or Radioactive Contamination**

### **IV-C1. Personal wallet-size dosimeters you can wear for your immediate dose information**

The most affordable and appropriate radiation dosimeter for emergency use that can be obtained for only \$10-\$15 in quantity is the SIRAD card-size, color-changing type shown in **Exhibit 9**. The stamp-size in this Exhibit that can be stuck to a wallet or other ordinary pocket item could likely be obtained in quantity for only a few dollars, if some incentive was given to Dr. Patel by governments to re-introduce them for safety of the public.

This dosimeter is based on the fact that certain diacetylene polymers change color (or darkness) in proportion to the amount of radiation received. They are produced with a middle strip that increases in color (and darkness) only when exposure begins to enter a range **approaching** those where serious health effects might occur. Only when the middle strip is dark enough compared to a lower range of fixed colors of increasing darkness, are the doses likely to be harmful or result in fatalities. Thus, these dosimeters are easily read, do not require battery replacements, and do not scare those in the majority who are not likely to receive serious doses. They have been developed by Dr. Gordhan Patel, who has developed them over many years with millions of dollars of Federal support and considerable investments of his own. They have received many patents and awards, and are uniquely available only from Dr. Patel's company. He personally observes the quality assurance of every step in the manufacturing process for every dosimeter he manufactures.

Dr. Patel is a fine individual and brilliant scientist dedicated to research and invention, as well as personal attention in developing the manufacturing of his own inventions, not only for his own profit, but also for benefits of society. I came to know him well after several visits to his company, where I wanted to examine his manufacturing processes before recommending his dosimeters. I had known of the SIRAD dosimeter research since the late 1990s, when a physicist who was then the project manager of his research for a Navy research laboratory gave me an early copy of the first SIRADs at a meeting of the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Health Physics Society. After carrying it for several years in my pocket, I was impressed with its stability and ruggedness.)

The SIRAD dosimeters were tested in USA laboratories soon after Marlow Stangler and I visited in 2005 with Dr. Charles E. McQueary, a distinguished scientist and engineer who was then the first Under Secretary for Science and Technology in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the G.W. Bush administration. After field testing with responders wearing them for their ruggedness, readability, and accuracy at the DHS top scientific laboratory in New York, the SIRAD dosimeters were approved by DHS for distribution to States and localities. Unfortunately, after Dr. McQueary was appointed to the Department of Defense and left the DHS, the DHS subsequently failed to recommend these dosimeters for purchase by the States for distribution to responders. Such distribution would have cost the taxpayer only an extremely small fraction of the billions spent by DHS on other equipment.



Such distribution of these dosimeters would provide information to each family on immediate needs for protection, and would avoid unnecessary fears at low exposure rates. They would have cost taxpayers an extremely small fraction of the billions expended on equipment provided to fire and police departments. Instead, a very limited quantity of much more expensive Geiger counters and gamma spectrum instruments were provided to only a limited number of responders in some major cities. These billions of dollars spent on equipment will be wasted if the public is in panic and floods the highways -- preventing responder entrance, and exposing themselves to great dangers (see information on Fukushima in Cuttler 2013a,b).

(Reasons for the failure to distribute these instruments are covered in more detail in my 2011 book, with the hope that some legislators or administration officials might take notice and correct official culture. These reasons might have something to do with some current views that properly preparing civil defense measures for an attack might encourage enemies to attack us. This is like saying weakness is a discouragement for bullies to attack the innocent. Or, it is like reasoning that putting fire alarms in our homes is going to encourage us to start fires and burn down our homes down.)

Many more reasons why I believe the wallet-size dosimeters pictured in **Exhibit 9** should be distributed throughout the general public as well as to responders and medical institutions, in peacetime before unexpected releases, are presented in Chapter 8 of my 2011 book, and in the final appendix. They can provide persons wearing them, conveniently in pockets or wallets, immediate information about radiation exposures. Most persons will not see color changes (or darkness changes for the color-blind) and then they will know they are safe. The minority who might receive the higher, harmful, exposures will know that, when observing color changes or darkening, they need to seek better shelter and shielding, or at the several darkest levels to seek medical treatment as soon as possible.

I hope readers will obtain these SIRAD dosimeters before it is too late, rather than depend as in Fukushima on uncertain estimates of dose from uncertain instrument readings after damage and citizen deaths have needlessly occurred (see references by Cuttler 2013, 2014).

Consequently, I must appeal to the readers of this handbook to please insist that your States, local counties, or communities provide these dosimeters to the public at this time (see the urgency in Appendix B). At least, readers of this handbook should try to team up with others in the community or their governments, and buy some for their communities directly from the manufacturer.

. I make this plea without receiving any monetary portion of sales.

Dr. Patel, the inventor, has recently sent to me his briefly-stated reasons why everyone should carry an inexpensive credit-card-size SIRAD dosimeter in a pocket or pocketbook:

### **“A FEW MINUTES OF RADIATION TRAINING**

Today's first responders are very busy with various responsibilities. Responding to a radiation emergency is just only one of them. They may face radiation incidents which may include nuclear bomb, dirty bomb, mishap at a nuclear reactor (e.g., Chernobyl, Ukraine and Fukushima, Japan) and a mishandling of a radiation source (e.g., Goiania, Brazil). Hence, we have prepared a few minutes of introductory radiation training for first responders (which can also be used by general public).

**Basic information:** Avoid unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation (e.g., gamma or X-rays); in large enough amounts they can cause cancer, injuries and death. Diagnostic dosages (chest X-rays = ~0.05 rad (0.5mSv) and CT scan = ~1 rad (10 mSv) are considered acceptable risks (except for fetus and children). Public is advised to limit their exposure to 5 rad (50 mSv) per year and 25 rad (250 mSv) for lifetime and emergency workers to 50 rad (500 mSv). There are no symptoms or medical treatment below ~50 rad (500 mSv) exposure. Contact an emergency room if exposed to dosages higher than 50 rad (500 mSv). Depending upon the dose and the dose period, nausea, vomiting and hair loss are usually the early symptoms after receiving radiation doses above 100 rad (1,000 mSv). If you are contaminated go to the nearest place and take a shower.

**Nuclear bomb explosion:** If you hear a huge explosion and see an extremely bright flash, drop and cover yourself for a few minutes. Keep eyes closed. Dangerous level of radioactive materials can fall (fallout) over a few tens of square miles. The fallout from the explosion looks like sand, ash or grit. Fallout loses 90% of its radioactivity every 7 hours, 99% in 2 days and 99.9% in 2 weeks, so stay indoors far from outside and behind heavy materials.

**Dirty bomb/RDD:** The major objectives of a radiological dispersion device (RDD) are to cause panic, worry and mass disruption. The radioactivity of the barely noticeable fallout is likely to be very low and limited to a few miles. While the area may be deemed unlivable, barely a few people may get doses higher than 5 rad (50 mSv). There is no need to panic.

**Accident at a nuclear power plant/reactor:** If it is a minor radiation leakage, it is extremely unlikely you will receive a harmful dose. If the accident is major/serious, e.g., a meltdown (as that at Chernobyl, Ukraine and Fukushima, Japan), the dose could be fatal (>1,000 rad )(10,000 mSv) for those who are near the reactor. Remain behind a thick object/wall or basement. Wait for instructions from the authority/government.

**Improper handling of radiation sources:** You will learn about these types of incidents (e.g., that of Goiania, Brazil) only after a handler is seriously injured. Once the incident becomes known, do not go near the affected area unless permitted by the authority. If you had been near the incident for a prolonged time, contact the authority. In case of a mishap with an X-ray or radiation therapy type machine, only the operator or patient may get over-exposed.

**To minimize panic & worry purchase a radiation dosimeter:** It is less likely that a radiation incident will occur and you will receive a dose higher than 5 rad (50 mSv). However, you would not know how much dose you have received without carrying a personal dosimeter. Accidents due to panic can cause more injuries and deaths than exposure to radiation.

Therefore, to minimize panic and worry, carry a dosimeter, e.g., wearable, instantly color-developing, pre-calibrated, always ready, reliable, rugged, federally funded and tested, field proven and affordable SIRAD® (RADTriage or RADSticker) for monitoring and triaging exposure information and treatment. RADSticker which weighs only 0.2 gram can be applied on many objects. A SIRAD may compliment, but cannot replace any other dosimeter/detector you may be required to use.”

**Final comment for this subsection:** Dr. Patel’s quote is consistent with my views above, except that his warning about shielding from reactor accidents would not apply to members of the public in the USA, who have not been, and will not be, near any failed reactor, like the responder who died trying to control the fire at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union. Also, Dr. Patel must get officials who still assume the linear-no-threshold (LNT) view of radiation effects to accept his statements. He can not be expected to speak about the hormetic or other research indications that show thresholds and no ill effects, and often positive health effects, at the lowest levels of acute or extended doses below about 20 rads (20 cGy) or 70 rad over one year as suggested by Cuttler (2014c). These effects were discussed above in section II.

**NOTICE: I HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT DR. PATEL’S SIRAD DOSIMETERS ALSO QUALIFY AS ACCEPTED “PERSONNEL EMERGENCY RADIATION DETECTORS (PERDS). THIS MEANS THEY CAN BE WORN AS A RADTRIAGE BADGE 24/7, AND THAT THEY ACTUALLY HAVE A USEFUL LIFE OF SEVERAL YEARS IF PROPERLY PROTECTED FROM SUNLIGHT. IF THERE IS A SLIGHT DARKENING OF THE CENTER STRIP OVER MANY MONTHS, THE READING AT THAT DARKNESS CAN BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE DOSE READING AFTER ENTERING A RADIATION AREA, TO ESTIMATE THE DOSE RECEIVED DURING RESPONSE TO AN EVENT. (Personal communications Steve Jones, Rick Hansen, April 2014)**

## Exhibit 9 – An Affordable, Simple, Personal Radiation Monitor

From the Award-Winning SIRAD<sup>®</sup> Family of Dosimeters

Available from JP Laboratories, Inc.

ATTN: Dr. Gordhan Patel

120 Wood Avenue

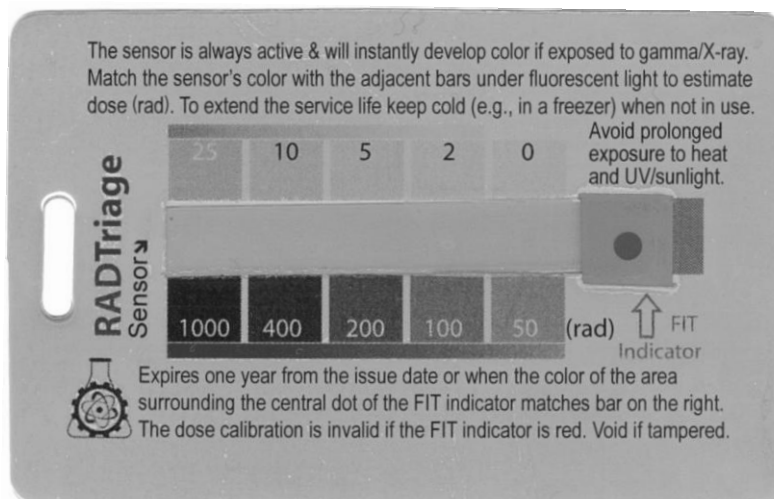
Middlesex, NJ 08846

USA telephone (732) 469-6670

E-mail: sirad@jplabs.com

**RADTriage-FIT<sup>™</sup>**, a part of the **SIRAD<sup>®</sup>** (**S**elf-indicating **I**ntant **R**adiation **A**lert **D**osimeter) family of SMART dosimeters, gives you peace of mind that you are reliably monitoring your radiation exposure. RADTriage-FIT with amber filter provides significantly longer life under sunlight. It has a sensor with 2, 5, 10 and 25 rad reference bars above it and 50, 100, 200, 400 and 1,000 rad reference bars below it for triaging information in emergencies. The revolutionary **FIT<sup>™</sup>** indicator (on the right hand side of the sensor) simultaneously monitors false positives & negatives, overexposure to heat & UV/ sunlight, service-life and covers a portion of the sensor to monitor UV exposure. RADTriage-FIT is an affordable radiation dosimeter that is always active and ready to use, enabling disaster and emergency response personnel to measure their radiation exposure while dealing with the aftermath of a "dirty bomb" attack, nuclear explosion or an accident at a nuclear power plant. Batteries, calibration, and maintenance are unnecessary.

More recent models of this dosimeter have been manufactured with dose scales in units of mSv, for use in Japan, where many were distributed after the Fukushima nuclear reactor releases. (If these had been distributed earlier by the Japanese government, so many millions would not need to be spent on estimating the Japanese population doses.) The wallet card size of the dosimeter has been slightly enlarged to provide easier reading of the instructions included on the card. Also, the card color has been changed to greyscale here.



#### **IV-C2. Pocket ionization chambers (“pocket chambers”) that can be worn on a pocket**

**Exhibit 10** shows the type of “pocket ionization chambers,” sometimes called “pocket dosimeters,” that were distributed to responders (fire and police departments, medics) throughout the nation by the Federal Civil Defense Administration and its successor organizations from the mid-1950s through about the mid-1990s. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) unfortunately cancelled the program of providing nominal funds to the States to maintain instrument maintenance program, although these instruments had already been purchased with public funds. Only a few States continued to maintain this program on their own. The program also had provided geiger counters and higher range portable ionization chambers so that responders, or even citizens having access to these instruments, could have the ability to judge their personal doses and risks, and either avoid high risks or avoid panic at low dose ranges of insignificant or no risk, as explained in section II.

The cylindrical pocket chamber shown in **Exhibit 10** comes with a charger as shown on the right, which can develop a static charge and transfer it to the electroscope within the chamber.

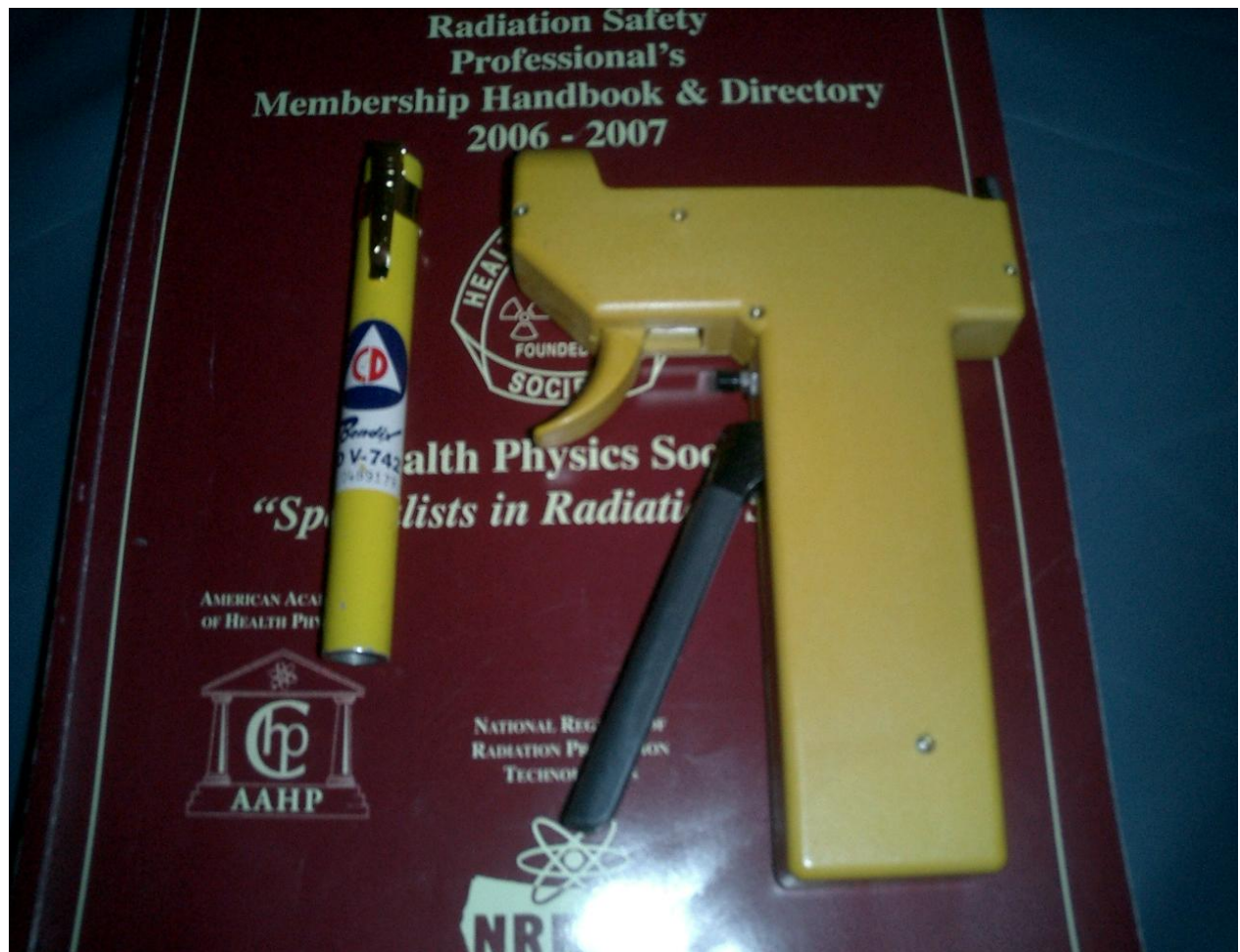
Several ranges of pocket chambers are shown in the kit of **Exhibit 13**, with a charger that contains a battery, so that the chamber may be charged by holding it down firmly on a receptor, while looking through the lit-up cylindrical chamber until the line seen comes to zero (0), to start accumulating whatever radiation dose is received by the wearer after the charging is done.

A limited number of kits, or just the pocket chambers and a charger, can be purchased from Shane Connor’s company at reasonable cost, although not at the price of \$10 per chamber the U.S. government paid when they were bought by the millions and distributed to the States.

The pocket ionization chamber is charged with electrons so the two parts of the thin wire loop repel each other, and are separated enough so that the magnifying glass inside the chamber shows a thin portion at zero when the chamber is held up to a light. As explained in section II, the amounts of exposure or dose to radiations we are interested in here, beta and gamma, are measured by the amount of ionization (electric charge) they produce in certain instruments designed to somehow immediately collect the charge, accumulate it with time, and cause a reading on a scale proportional to the dose that would be received by a person in the same location.

The pocket chambers shown in the Exhibits in this handbook would not measure beta radiation because the walls are too thick to allow betas to enter; they are designed for the proper sensitivity to gamma radiation for the range intended for each type of dosimeter. There were available at one time, special pocket chambers with very thin walls that were designed to be able to measure beta radiation. However, I have not seen them at any of the instrument displays at meetings for a very long time.

**Exhibit 10 -- Pocket Ionization Chamber and Static Electricity Charger**



### IVC-3. Geiger counters (or Geiger-Mueller (GM) counters)

**Note:** Some science organizations now recommend no capitalization of the word Geiger, even though it was a scientist's name, but we will not worry about that here. We will sometimes use the word with a capital G so you know it was the name of the original inventor. A scientist named Mueller improved on Geiger's invention, so these radiation detectors are also called Geiger-Mueller, or GM, counters. They have no relationship to the company General Motors.

**Exhibit 11** and its accompanying subtitle visually demonstrates how a sensitive Geiger counter reading can be interpreted in terms of radiation dose rates that are easily measurable, but would not result in serious risks even after weeks of exposure. The small stamp-size SIRAD dosimeter shown in the exhibit might now be available only in limited quantities, because Federal, State, and local governments have not ordered sufficient supplies. Some can be obtained from KI4U.com, but the card-size SIRAD can still be obtained in large quantities from Dr. Gordhan Patel and is somewhat easier and more accurate to read.

**Exhibit 12** is a recently-developed Geiger counter with a special circuit that allows measurement of exposure rates at background levels ( $10 \mu\text{R}/\text{hour} = 0.01 \text{ mR}/\text{hour}$ ) all the way up to  $1,000 \text{ R}/\text{hour}$  ( $= 1,000,000 \text{ mR}/\text{hour}$ ); the latter rate would produce, in a half-hour or less of exposure, a total dose that would cause death to more than 50% of those exposed within 8 weeks if they do not obtain special medical treatment, as indicated in **Exhibit 3**. The necessary kind of treatment is not likely to be available to many with the sparseness of qualified physicians in this specialty. Therefore, it is necessary to know when such high levels are present, even for a minority, although others not at risk must understand that the lower ranges measurable might not be dangerous depending on the amount of time exposed, and that the very lowest ranges would be of no health effects or even have some benefits to the immune system, as discussed in sections II and III.

The GM counter in **Exhibit 12** is able to cover such a wide range of intensities as a result of a special design by Phil Smith and his son Luke. The design is such that the instrument behaves like an ordinary Geiger counter until the frequency of pulses increases as intensity grows above a certain level where the pulse rate becomes so rapid that an ordinary GM counter could not recover the anode voltage for the next pulse. At that point, the Smiths' instrument activates a small, special computer and electronic circuit, incorporated in the encasement of the counter shown in Exhibit 12, that uses the time between pulses to calculate the pulse rate, and thus the intensity of the radiation field at the higher levels. I examined their factory processes before including their instrument in this handbook.

The Smiths have also matched their GM counter in **Exhibit 12** to special computer software and GPS equipment that allow continuous monitoring around cities or communities at specific locations. Because their GM instrument has such a wide range, it can be used to monitor gamma radiation levels at many specific locations, both for purposes of detecting the oncoming of lower exposure rates near background levels and/or monitoring exposure rates as they increase to levels requiring alarms to alert the public of the need for sheltering, evacuation (only when all circumstances dictate it appropriate), or additional shielding from gamma radiation. Their GM counter-computer system is now being located around the US, so that in the case any event releasing radioactive material occurs, it will be detected very early, and we will not be in the situation as at Fukushima, where radiation doses were unknown and inappropriate actions were taken that caused deaths when no chances of ill health were otherwise present. See the references by Cuttler (2014a,b,c).

Geiger counters easily usable by any citizen, including the one in **Exhibit 12**, are available from the KI4U site. Other instruments, including the one in **Exhibit 11**, are available from many other distributors listed on the HPS website or in my 2011 book. They can be purchased for prices in the range of \$500 to \$800, which is affordable to some families or groups of neighbors in many neighborhoods. These

instruments come with simple instructions, which would be particularly meaningful to anyone learning the few words in section II of this handbook or at least in Appendix A, and reading the information below.

**Those interested in a deeper understanding may also now read the following paragraphs in this section.**

A Geiger counter, sometimes called a Geiger-Mueller (GM) counter, detects and estimates the intensity or flow rate through space of ionizing radiation such as gamma or x radiation. It has a tube at very high voltage that collects an avalanche of charge produced by the radiation in the chamber to create a pulse for each radiation interaction that knocks electrons out of the gas inside the chamber. This avalanche occurs before the knocked out electrons can recombine with the positive ions left behind, because of the very high voltage and the very thin wire, or wires, that collect each avalanche and produce a pulse.

The pulses are measured with a circuit that counts the individual pulses of avalanched charge. Thus, it measures exposure rate by measuring pulse rates, but the circuits can also cumulate the rate to give cumulated exposure (or dose) over time, as well as exposure (or dose) rate. It is designed with a fine wire “anode” that is placed at a the high positive voltage on a stable voltage plateau, typically at about 1,000 volts or more, with respect to a negative or ground voltage of zero at the wall surrounding the wire, which is insulated from the wall. Thus, the GM “probe” can be held without receiving a shock. All of the electronic circuitry that produces the voltage, measures the rate of pulses, converts pulse rates to exposure rates, and provides meter readings and clicking sounds, is contained in a rugged box, something like the yellow box of an early civil defense instrument in the upper left corner of **Exhibit 13**, except now there are smaller ones like those of the modern GM counters in **Exhibits 11 and 12**.

With a thick wall of metal (perhaps only in millimeters) beta radiation can not be detected, so the counter can detect only gamma radiation, unless there is a small open window of thin, protected, material that lets in beta rays when held close to the source (e.g., the skin if checking skin contamination).

Although most gamma rays of interest can penetrate the walls of a GM counter, enough gamma photons interact with the wall and release electrons into the chamber to produce the electrical pulses. These electrons are fast enough, so that they knock out electrons from atoms of the gas (or air) in the chamber with such energy that, under the high positive voltage attracting them to the very thin anode wire, they cause a huge avalanche of electrons that saturate the anode with a pulse of current. Each pulse is registered by an appropriate electronic circuit, which produces the clicks and meter reading, and then restores the proper voltage to the anode to allow recording of the next pulse. Restoration of voltage can occur within less than a millisecond interval so that thousands of pulses per minute can be recorded by a GM counter. The amplification in a geiger counter avalanche is such that about 100 billion (100.000.000.000) electrons arrive at the anode for each pulse that can be initiated by only one electron knocked out of an atom into the gas by a gamma ray. That is why a GM counter is so sensitive to radiation, even near low or background intensities that can do no harm.

If a very thin window is cut into the wall of the chamber and sealed with a thin plastic membrane protected by a screen, so that the gas in the chamber, usually at a pressure below atmospheric, can not escape or be infiltrated, then when the detector is placed near a surface contaminated with a beta emitter, the betas (fast electrons) can then immediately be detected very sensitively by the counter. The counter is connected to an electronic circuit and meter that indicates the number of counts per unit time, which, if no betas are entering the chamber, sometimes is roughly indicated on a scale to indicate the exposure rate of gamma radiation in mR per hour. The range of gamma radiation for which exposure is roughly indicated within a certain accuracy as specified in the information provided with the instrument. Sometimes, the



count-rate is also connected to an integrating circuit that can accumulate the counts as well as the indication of total exposure.

I hope that these explanations will give readers some understanding of how radiation detecting and measuring instruments work, because if they use them others will ask these kinds of questions.

#### **IVC-4. Ion chamber survey meters**

Ion chamber instruments, such as the older model yellow civil defense (CD) instrument in the upper left corner of **Exhibit 13**, are more useful at higher exposure rates. They are not as sensitive as GM counters, because they operate at voltage plateaus in about the 300-400 volt range, rather than 1,000 volt range, and do not have the extremely thin anode wires that produce extremely high electric fields. Therefore, they collect only the electrons at the rate produced inside the chamber by initial events, do not result in 100-billion-electron pulses for each event, and can indicate the steady currents produced by fields of radiation incident on the instruments' sensitive chambers. These ion chamber survey instruments are therefore not sensitive to levels near background radiation, and are more useful when expecting to be in fields where health effects should be limited. (When I jumped onto the island in 1954 at 30,000 mrad per hour, I took an ion chamber instrument with me to limit my time on the island; a GM counter would have been of no use, would have been saturated, and might not have had a reading at all. If an ion chamber instrument, like the one with CD insignia in the upper left corner of **Exhibit 13**, can be obtained inexpensively, it would likely suffice for informing the user about radiation intensities that would require additional protection and sheltering.

Comparing the size of the ion chamber in **Exhibit 13** with the GM counters in **Exhibits 11 and 12**, shows how miniaturization of GM counters now provides instruments that are more easily portable and yet can still cover wide ranges of radiation intensity.

#### **IVC-5. Other types of radiation detecting and measuring instruments**

There are many other types of instruments for measuring the various types of ionizing radiation – gamma, x ray, neutron, alpha, and beta – but they are not important for the citizen just concerned with protecting himself and family in the kinds of terrorist attacks or accidents that might affect the general public. For incidents involving other kinds of radiation than gamma or beta, such as the poisoning in England of the Russian with alpha-emitting polonium-210, investigation of such incidents, or protection against them, requires the involvement of special scientists and agents. Also, anyone exposed to the prompt neutron radiation instantly emitted from a nuclear bomb will likely be in an area of total destruction, unless like the policeman in Hiroshima mentioned in the **Afterword**, he is well below ground in a protected location at the time of the explosion. So, neutron detectors are not of interest to citizens protecting against releases of radioactive material from either nuclear bombs or reactors.

## Exhibit 11 -- Picture and Discussion of “High” Geiger Counter Readings and Chemical Color-Changing (SIRAD) Dosimeters vs. Possible Stay Times for Rescue or Seeking Shelter



This is an exhibit of how I showed responders such as firemen and police how to understand that seemingly high Geiger counter readings do not necessarily mean danger in entering areas for rescue purposes. This GM counter is an affordable instrument available from Beth Cramer, S.E. International, Inc., P.O. Box 39, Summertown, TN 38483-0039, E Mail [beth@seintl.com](mailto:beth@seintl.com). A counter like this should be available to every group of persons within a shelter in the event of a nuclear bomb detonation or other release of radioactive material. It comes with a small radioactive but safe source for checking its operation, and is also useful for instructions on familiarity with radiation phenomena. However, it is not in itself adequate for responders who might need to monitor their entry in radiation levels above 0.1 R per hour to save life. Note in Reference 1 where I carried an ionization chamber monitor, rather than a GM counter, in a 30 R per hour field of gamma radiation to rescue my detectors after H-bomb tests, staying only about 5 minutes and then 20 on a contaminated helicopter. As a responder, I would gladly enter such an area to save any of you good readers.

After showing that the incident radiation from this uranium glazed ashtray gave a seemingly large count rate of about 16,000 beeps per minute, I then switched to the mR per hour scale to show what the exposure rate would mean in a gamma radiation field for the same 16,000 per minute count rate. The reading, as seen, is close to 10 mR per hour. The responders knew that m means milli (one thousandth as indicated in the definitions). So I then indicated that in a field of 10 mR per hour, it would take 1,000 hours (about 6 weeks) for a responder in such a gamma ray field to receive 10 roentgens exposure (10 R). This would be less than the 25 R allowed for responders for such life-saving efforts, with some leeway to

receive even more. Then, I say to the responder group I am talking with, **“You routinely risk your lives staying in fires for as little as 10 seconds to save lives. When you could stay in such a field for 6 weeks, are you going to fear going in for 10-30 minutes or more to save lives? You would not even see a color change, or darkening, on the middle strip of this SIRAD dosimeter for a 10-30 minute exposure in such a field. In 1,000 hours it would not be up to 25 R.”** The responders then concur **they would have no fear entering 10 mR per hour, which has been given them as a turnaround level in much official training.**

I then tell them they should be carrying all of the time such SIRAD dosimeters, which give dark scale indications from several R to hundreds of R, or at least have the smaller RADTriage badge pasted in their wallets. They would then know if they were approaching doses near or above the 25 R emergency limit. They face much more risk than that of 25 R every time they answer a fire or call for rescue than they would in the vast areas that would be in the mR per hour range, even after a nuclear blast in the range of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.” (See Brodsky 2011.) Moreover, if they were indeed approaching higher levels of 30,000 mR per hour (which in my 2011 book I showed how I entered for five minutes to recover my detectors after the H-bomb tests of 1954) they would be alerted by an increasing darkening or color change of a SIRAD dosimeter within 5-10 minutes and could take measures to vacate the area or find adequate shielding.

Such instruction is necessary, because members of the public often hear statements such as, “Any radiation is dangerous,” or “There is no safe level of radiation,” even sometimes from officials or scientists who do not realize the needs for understanding levels of dose and risk under emergency conditions.

**Exhibit 12 -- An Affordable Geiger Counter with an Extremely Wide Range Satisfying Requirements of Every Response Organization and Neighborhood  
(See the paragraphs following this picture.)**

**Most Geiger counters will be useless (saturated) in the critical stages of a nuclear emergency !**

10 $\mu$ R/hr	World average background radiation
400 $\mu$ R/hr	Transcontinental flight at cruising altitude
1mR/hr (1000 $\mu$ R/hr)	Highest background radiation where people live
10mR/hr	Functional limit of some Geiger counters
<b>Low-Radiation Zone / Hot Zone</b>	
Responders may stay for full first 12 hours. Uninjured people may simply be told to go home and shower.	
100mR/hr	Functional limit of most Geiger counters
<b>Medium-Radiation Zone / Hot Zone</b>	
Responders may stay for 5 to 12 hours for critical property and lifesaving activities. People in this area should be checked for contamination before release.	
1R/hr (1000mR/hr)	Most Geiger counters are SATURATED
<b>High-Radiation Zone / Hot Zone</b>	
Responders may stay for 30 minutes to 5 hours for fire fighting and rescue. People in this area should be checked for contamination before release.	
10R/hr	Most Geiger counters are SATURATED
<b>Extreme Caution Zone / Dangerous Fallout Zone</b>	
Responders may stay for minutes to a few hours for lifesaving activities. People within this area <u>must</u> be checked for contamination before being released.	
50R/hr	Most Geiger counters are SATURATED
<b>Turn Back / Deadly Fallout Zone</b>	
Responders should leave the area. In extreme life-saving situations, responders can continue if aware of the radiation risks and no alternative rescue method exists.	
1000R/hr	Likely Fatal Dose Accumulated in 30 Minutes
Use the NukAlert-ER to <b>IMMEDIATELY</b> find a safer location	
<b>Functional Upper Range of the NukAlert-ER</b>	

**THIS ONE IS DIFFERENT**



<http://nukalert.com/>

References:  
[http://www.orcpd.org/rdd\\_handbook/rdd-handbook-forweb.pdf#page=63](http://www.orcpd.org/rdd_handbook/rdd-handbook-forweb.pdf#page=63)  
<http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/dhs/fema/nrcr.pdf>

This instrument can be operated on two AA batteries and/or a USB power source (computer or universal cell charger). It is also ruggedized and will perform under a wide range of temperature and environmental conditions.

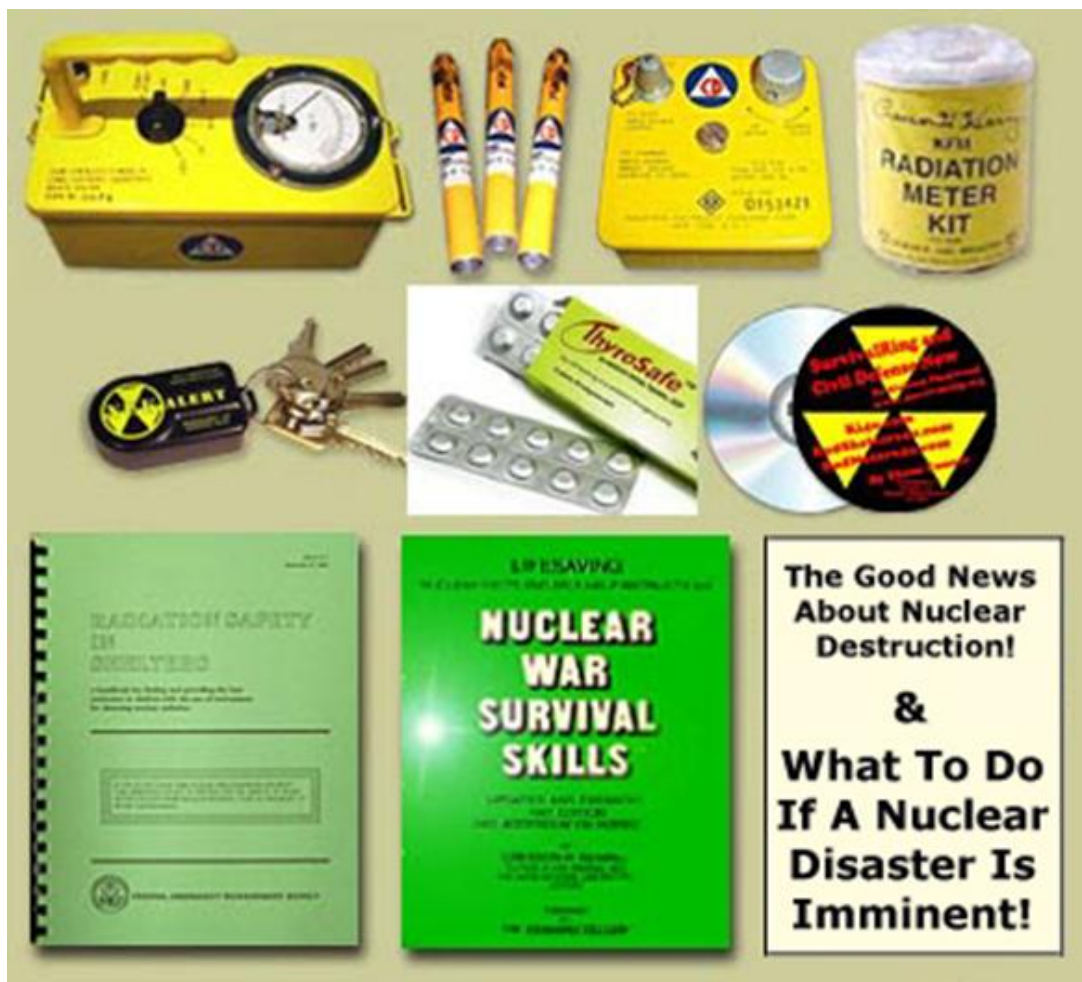
Contact Shane Connor at [shane@ki4u.com](mailto:shane@ki4u.com) for price, availability, and specifications, and easy instructions for use. Marketed through Shane Connor as the NukAlert-ER, this radiation detector has recently been developed by Phillip Smith and son Luke, who have developed software that will also provide for a national and local radiation monitoring system using this GM tube. It can detect gamma radiation levels from natural background to more than 1000 R per hour. The NukAlert Data Gateway powers a NukAlert-ER Geiger counter and sends continuous radiation readings from it to multiple internet databases and an optional HDMI display. Power for the system may be supplied by a wall plug adapter, or power over Ethernet. Connection to the internet is by Ethernet or WiFi. The radiation intensity can be read as a BACnet variable and used to shut down building HVAC air intakes if a user defined radiation level is exceeded. The system is able to send live feed to databases such as the RadResponder Network. This system is already being installed at locations around the country, with GPS identification giving continuous monitoring of radiation levels at specific locations. This is more accurate and reliable than sending human surveyors into potentially radioactive areas in an emergency, where their radios and other equipment could be subject to failure or interferences.

**This author hopes that, in addition to the Department of Homeland Security recognizing its importance, and placing such an instrument around the nation for central monitoring of radiation releases (before they occur, not like at Fukushima), it will also be available for monitoring by citizens and responders in every neighborhood.**



**Exhibit 13 -- Kit of Radiation Instruments and Information, with Ionization Chamber Survey Meter in Upper Left Corner**  
(available from [www.4IKU.com](http://www.4IKU.com))

(Recommending this company is not favoritism. Shane is the only one who foresaw the need to collect these civil defense instruments and supplies in large quantities before they were destroyed in the mid-1990s, to provide them at reasonable cost for saving lives. You can find other suppliers of instruments from my list in my 2011 book,)



#### **IV-D – Training for Immediate Aid to Blast and Trauma Victims**

Actions to prevent injury from blasts, or to attend immediately to help victims of trauma (Hatfill and Orient 2013), are applicable for natural disasters as well as any other sources of trauma. The importance of our learning the ways of aiding family members or others in our vicinity who have been traumatized or injured from blast or ballistic trauma are evident to us all. A summary of the lessons to be learned from the article by Hatfill and Orient are presented here. The original article should be consulted to prepare for the effective use of their guidance and instructions. Even better, a video recording and Power Point presentation of Dr. Hatfill's course, on which this article is based, is available from: [ddponline.org/hatfill/](http://ddponline.org/hatfill/). The most current guidelines can be found at [C-TECC.org](http://C-TECC.org). Hatfill and Orient point out that anyone in the vicinity of a traumatized victim can provide life-saving aid.

Lessons from the Boston Marathon indicate that many healthcare professionals, as well as responders and ordinary citizens, could benefit from instruction on controlling catastrophic hemorrhage and removing airway obstruction. While Boston is relatively well-prepared in medical emergency facilities, even this city has many responders needing upgraded instruction in these emergency measures. Also, all involved need to be aware of the possibility of multiple explosions, and provide whatever protection available, if the trauma is the result of terrorist actions.

Priorities are different in mass casualty situations. In common medical emergencies the priorities are ABC: airway, breathing, circulation. In mass casualty situations, first priority is hemorrhage control: a person can bleed to death within 90 seconds to three minutes, whereas a patient can survive several minutes with an obstructed airway. Appropriate lightweight tourniquets should be available. Unconscious persons should be put on their side in the recovery position shown in the article. Bleeding should be stopped with tourniquets or occlusive dressings of open chest wounds. Triage will be necessary to avoid spending time on those who cannot be saved, at the expense of failing to save those who will live if given immediate attention.

Explosions can cause severe burns from thermal pulse, severe eye injuries from the blast and shrapnel and at least temporary blindness, hearing loss from rupture of the tympanic membrane by the blast, rupture of the tracheobronchial and alveolar airways and the gastro-intestinal system from the blast and shrapnel, and brain injury and unconsciousness from the blast and shrapnel. All of these injuries can occur even beyond the range of complete destruction of an improvised nuclear device (IND) or an atomic bomb. Therefore, it should be remembered that a victim might not be able to hear, see, or feel any instructions during emergency aid.

Information provided by Hatfield and Orient (2013) for saving lives includes a very important section: Control of Hemorrhage, with pictures. The adult male has about 5 liters of blood; rapid loss of 2 liters will result in severe shock (a state of prolonged stagnated capillary blood flow to vital organs). An additional loss of 500 cc (one-half liter) will likely lead to death if not immediately corrected. Updated and some *ad hoc* methods of applying tourniquets are described, as well as packing body wounds.

Other information in their article includes:

- Airway management: If the victim is walking, he has a good airway. If the victim is unable to assist in recovery, methods of opening the airway and carefully placing him in a recovery position are described.
- Breathing: Check for open chest wounds but know you should not turn the person over before ruling out pelvic fractures. Sealing the wound is necessary; any porous material like plastic wrap or foil can be used. If possible, the casualty should sit up to increase abdomen pressure on the lung and make it easier to breathe. Other measures that probably require trained medics are described.
- Head-to-Toe Examination: This section advises checking for wounds on the front of the chest by running hands down the front of the body. Then, check for pelvic fracture by gently squeezing the body together. If no crepitus (crackling sound) is noted, then push posteriorly. The authors give further advice for checking injuries over the body, reassessing previous efforts at hemorrhage control, protecting injured eyes with rigid shields that do not put pressure on the globe, positioning the victim, and controlling the rate of fluid replacement to avoid diluting clotting factors. Assessing shock includes checking the radial pulse, which disappears around 80 mm Hg; the femoral pulse disappears around 70 mm, and the carotid pulse around 60 mm.
- Hypothermia: Blankets and thermal blankets are helpful, but active warming is likely to be needed such as using a hand warmer over the femoral artery or under the armpits, or placing the patient in sunlight.
- “The Blow-Out Kit”: A kit is recommended to be available, but only trained responders are likely to understand what all the items are. The authors do, however, mention a number of ready items that might be available on your or the victim’s body or in your car. Some of the information above will indicate the kind of ordinary items that might be kept in anyone’s car in the event of the need for layperson’s assistance to a trauma victim.

**Important:** This summary of the article is provided mainly to encourage professional responders to use the training in Dr. Hatfill’s course, and encourage their supervisors to put on group courses. Their recommendations also encourage ordinary citizens to be familiar with much of the training materials, and have available the common everyday items that can be used to aid trauma victims. The training materials and contact with Dr. Hatfill for his courses can be obtained at [ddponline.org/hatfill/](http://ddponline.org/hatfill/) and access to this article and many others on emergency preparations can be obtained from [jane@aapsonline.org](mailto:jane@aapsonline.org).

**Ranges of blast damage and trauma:** Traumatic injuries, burns, and blindness can extend out to, and beyond the ranges of light damage to structures. Ranges and areas of severe, moderate, and light damage following a ground burst of three TNT energies of nuclear weapons are given in **Exhibit 14** below. The lower two are within the TNT range called “improvised nuclear devices (INDs)” in official reports, to avoid scaring the public about atomic (or nuclear) bombs. The lower yield weapons are believed to be of simple design and of easier assembly by small terrorist cells. Alvarez (2004) describes experiments that show that so-called dirty bombs can not significantly spread enough radioactive material to cause harm to the public, but that, “It is possible that a single individual could assemble a fissile device in less than a week that is transportable by small sedan.” The “fissile device” he is describing is a small atomic (nuclear) bomb that could be as devastating as 1 kT, which is equivalent to 2,000,000 pounds of TNT. A 1 kT bomb requires the complete fission of only 56 grams of U-235 (Auxier 2004). This is only 56/454 pounds (less than one-eighth of a pound) of U-235, compared to 2 million pounds of TNT.

Although the ranges of light damage to structures, and possible traumatic damage to persons, can extend to over 13 square miles for a 1 kT weapon, and over 50 square miles for a 10 kT weapon, the ranges of fallout patterns that can make a Geiger counter click at hundreds of times the rate in natural background, can extend to many hundreds of square miles (Brodsky 2011). There are hundreds of fallout

patterns shown in one of the references in my 2011 book, and none of them are identical. These patterns depend on wind speeds, their directions at various altitudes, their fluctuations, and precipitations and their locations. There really is no “typical” fallout pattern.

**Exhibit 14 – Ranges and Areas of Blast Effects from Nuclear Bombs\***  
(adapted from University of Pittsburgh 2011)

TNT Equivalent*	Range of Severe Damage	Range of Moderate Damage	Range of Light Damage	Area of Severe Damage	Area of Moderate Damage	Area of Light Damage
10 kT	0.5 miles	1 mile	3-4 miles	0.79 square mile	3.2 square miles	50 square miles
1 kT	0.3 miles	0.5 mile	1-2 miles	0.28 square mile	0.79 square miles	13 square miles
0.1 kT	0.12 miles	0.25 mile	0.6-0.8 miles	0.045 square mile	0.063 square miles	2 square miles

- 1 kt = 1 kiloton TNT = 1,000 tons of TNT = 2,000,000 (2 million) pounds of TNT. The ranges and areas of damage are approximate, and will depend upon buildings, trees, or other protective structures. The areas of measurable fallout radiation intensity will cover tens to hundreds of times the ranges in this table.

**The bottom line is that:**

- All responders and citizens hoping to be able to save traumatized individuals in their communities or vicinities should be updated on the best procedures for saving lives, by taking Dr. Hatfill’s courses or using his video and Power Point presentations on [ddponline.org/hatfill/](http://ddponline.org/hatfill/), and the most current guidelines on C-TECC.org. Again, Hatfill and Orient point out that anyone in the vicinity of a traumatized victim can provide life-saving aid. This and other available articles on preparing for saving lives in emergencies can be obtained from [jane@aapsonline.org](mailto:jane@aapsonline.org).
- Responders and individuals hoping to aid trauma victims after a nuclear bomb or IND attack must not be afraid of the levels of contamination on victims that will be orders of magnitude lower when transferred by touch to their own skin or clothing, and can easily be removed later by simple washing. I know this from my own experience running around on a heavily contaminated island after the hydrogen bomb tests in 1954 on Enewetok, and from training and working with responders in real fallout fields at the Nevada test site in 1957 (see my 2011 book cartoons on this and the discussion surrounding them). Everyone should also be prepared to determine radiation intensities with simple, light, dosimeters or Geiger counters, so they will understand radiation risks vs. levels of radiation intensity, and not panic and avoid aid to the victims, over the large areas where neither they nor the victims will be seriously harmed by the radiation doses received. Radiation levels over most of the area where trauma victims need immediate care would not harm informed and trained responders, even if they stayed in the area for a number of hours.



## IV-E Training and Supplies for Immediate Decontamination and Waste Removal

For the early weeks before some scientists or authorities might be able to descend upon you to attempt more sensitive detection of radioactive material in or on your body, you will be quite safe, likely forever, if you were not outdoors and in descending fallout, to just:

- Brush yourself off before entering your shelter, and wash your hands after inside, if you have been outside, or need to go out of the shelter for 10 or fifteen minutes to fetch some food products, other supply items listed in section IV-A that were not placed within the shelter in advance, or to use an outside improvised toilet.
- If you think you were exposed to descending fallout while outside, also take off your clothes and use soap and water on a washrag to go over exposed areas of your skin or hair, and dispose of any potentially contaminated rags or clothing in the special large waste can inside the shelter, lined with a plastic bag, within the shelter. The amount of radioactivity in the can will not be enough to cause an external radiation hazard. **DO NOT SCRUB YOUR SKIN UNTIL IT IS RAW WITH OPEN WOUNDS.**
- If you have obtained a Geiger-counter survey instrument of a type similar to those in **Exhibits 11 or 12**, and want to check me on these recommendations, note the following: On pages 122-125 of Brodsky (2011), I have shown it unlikely that while being outdoors beyond the lethal blast destruction areas, for either a nuclear bomb or RDD, unless you wiped your hand upon the ground, **your skin contamination would not read more than about 0.16 millirad per hour** on a Geiger counter with its beta window open and within about 1 centimeter of the skin. These Geiger counters will also measure any gamma radiation present in the area, with (for our purposes) about the same reading in mR/hour as a beta reading in mrad/hour. Thus, you would be safe in assuming this to be the maximum skin dose rate for emergency purposes.

Noting in **Exhibit 11** that a 10 mR/hour exposure rate, or the approximate corresponding whole body dose-rate, could be accepted by a responder for 6 weeks to still be under 10 R, where 25 R of acute (short-term) exposure is usually the suggested official limit for saving life. No ill effects, and no significant chance of late cancers, would be associated with an exposure of 10 R over a period of 6 weeks (see section II). **A count-rate corresponding to a reading of only 0.16 mR/hour, or even 10mR/hour (about 10,000 to 20,000 counts per minute) on a geiger counter with open window, would not have ill health effects, for either a reading of gamma radiation or beta radiation on skin.** This is true even though a reading of 0.16 mR/hour would give a count (click) rate about ten times that of natural background, and could be registered over a wide area beyond the range of blast or heat effects. (The beta dose rate for skin would be about the same as a gamma dose rate to whole body, for readings of an instrument sensitive and proportional to ionization density, for our purposes.) Also, such a dose rate indicated by a reading of 0.16 mR/hour is so low it would not even provide appreciable hormetic effects. (See section IIB.)

My views here are based on personal experiences on Enewetok Island with gamma radiation readings of 30,000 mR/hour from hydrogen bomb fallout and neutron activation of the soil, and from training responders at the Nevada Test Site in similar fields of radiation from fallout from nuclear bombs in the range of kilotons TNT, as well as the scientific literature and calculations referenced in Brodsky (2011).

## V

### How to Find Reliable Experts You Can Believe: Very Difficult But Doable

#### V-A – The Bad News: The Difficulties and My Failures

**Difficulties: The uphill effort to reverse the growth of a vastly misinformed public:**

**First, an apology and perspective: I apologize to journalists in the media about remarks in this book.** I do believe that the vast majority of journalists working for various media are good and hard-working people who want to get true facts and important information to the public. They are also talented persons who are excellent at boiling information into limited articles to meet tight deadlines.

However, either because

- the hiring of scientists by these media is too expensive, or
- many journalists and editors are not aware of how to consult and hire the best experts in this field, or
- as explained later about Ray Johnson's findings at the end of this subsection, scientists generally are not of the personality to want to be journalists or appear in the media,

articles in the media, and even debates on TV, are generally biased against a necessary true understanding of nuclear issues -- those related either to bombs, nuclear power, or the many current uses of radioactive material that benefit industry and public health, and contribute hundreds of billions to a healthy economy (Waltar 2004).

Similar false information has been fed to all the public in the USA for six or more decades, and not only unintentionally by well-meaning reporters who have no science backgrounds. This misinformation has also been provided by the entertainment industries that have exploited reports about the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to pique the imaginations not only of adults in movies such as "On the Beach" and "The China Syndrome," but also our youngest children in cartoons and comic books that have attributed impossible health effects and genetic changes to radiation producing all kinds of monsters. Current (Cuttler 2014a and b) as well as earlier (e.g., Cravens 2010; Waltar 2004) examinations of scientific facts proves that this misleading of the public has produced unnecessary fear and death, while the radiation doses received could not have been harmful to anyone. Information in the entertainment media has also been a form of propaganda against nuclear energy, and prevented its environmental benefits, since the late 1940s.

When there is an attempted "fair" debate between views, usually selected is one scientist who is well-versed from his own research and publications recognized by his peers as important contributions, opposed by another with a scientific or medical degree but who is known by peers to be expert in misapplying statistics to data to confound truth. This makes the public feel that there are only two extreme opinions of scientists in the field, that the matter is controversial, and that science has no answer.

In the same issue of Health Physics News containing the article by Edquist (2014), a sampling is presented of the enormous flow of misinformation in the three years since the tsunami caused the Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant accident (Walchuk and Wahl 2014). The article also contains interviews suggesting how to combat this disinformation. Also, the article by Edquist shows a posted sign at a Japanese home where decontamination has been completed, the sign reading a "dose" rate of 0.22  $\mu\text{Sv}$  per hour. This level of dose rate would in the traditional units be given as 0.022 mR per hour, close to one of the lowest natural background levels to which the radiation levels on earth has decreased in the billions of years since creation. In such radiation levels, the human race has grown and thrived,

except for its wars. Such a sign in Japan can only create fear of radiation in a place where the radiation level is so low that neither a harmful nor beneficial effect can occur. (See about my interview with a Japanese reporter after Fukushima further on.)

Although I have supported at times the right of the media to have freedom of reporting and not revealing sources, I have also recommended to some of my representatives that somehow we need to **specify how media rights need to be balanced with responsibilities for accuracy and truth. This would be difficult to legislate, but some insights on how media, as well as the public, can find reliable “experts” is presented at the conclusion of this section.**

**My failures:** This subsection shows how difficult it is for a scientist to get truth to the general public.

Despite my more than six decades in the profession of health and medical physics, my lectures to many students and a limited number of public audiences, talks at professional meetings on the needs and ways to get out and talk with the public about radiation, and spending thousands of dollars giving away my 2004 and 2011 books to my colleagues and public servants who might take a lead on spreading truth, I have failed to make a significant dent on the conscious understanding by the vast majority of the public of the facts about radiation health effects, benefits of radiation applications, and the need to prevent and prepare for the use of nuclear weapons against us. (See Appendix C.)

**Failure 1:** After the September 11, 2001 (“9/11”) attacks, I thought it was an opportunity for those who understood radiation doses and effects to deliver a wake-up call to the public, and have them prepare measures for protection against terrorist attacks with radiation or other agents. I felt that we might inspire the government to re-institute the civil defense program that was destroyed in the mid-1990s as a presumed prize (“peace dividend”) of ending the “cold war.” (Think what is happening today.)

To me, the 9/11 attack was a new opportunity to interest the public in civil defense, in obtaining radiation detectors and learning about simple facts of radiation exposure and how to judge when radiation levels would be dangerous. I arranged a panel discussion for our local Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the HPS, in cooperation with related professional chapters involved with safety and health issues. The discussion also had panelists who were expert on effects of biological and chemical weapons and on the experiences with nuclear power plant accidents. The panel discussion was held in the Washington DC area in November 2001 and was relatively well-attended, with over 100 participants.

In December 2011, the then-President of the Health Physics Society (HPS), George Anastas, who had heard about the November Panel, called me and asked me to set up and chair an Ad Hoc Committee on Homeland Security Committee (HSC) for the Society. I suggested that he ask a younger member, who might have unlimited resources and liked to spend time thinking about nuclear destruction, to take on the challenge. I had wanted to work on this urgent issue on my own.

A few days later, he had not found such a younger member, and still wanted me to accept. Thinking “what I should do for my country,” I accepted the job but for only one year. Within six months, I had all the reports and training materials to instruct responders and educate the public from my great subcommittee chairs, and submitted them to the Board of Directors of the HPS for their consideration, along with a program recommended to get us out to the public. I recommended a few simple changes in the ByLaws to make the HSC a Standing Committee of fifteen, and a program with procedures for cooperation of several committees and Board members to get all the members of the many chapters out regularly to talk with public groups and individuals, reporting back their activities at each chapter meeting, rather than just listening to speakers. I felt that chapter members, especially the younger ones,

would feel a more important participating role, and chapters would also inspire greater participation and attract more members.

The Board did not accept any of my recommendations; they rejected them all, and continued an HSC for further activities and recommendations. Nevertheless, I kept trying after resigning as chair to give several talks on the subject to HPS members and members of the DC Section of the American Nuclear Society (ANS), and continued to approach several more Presidents of HPS and ANS about the matter, also giving some further courses, assembling speakers and writers for the textbook for the 2004 Summer School, published as Brodsky, Goans, and Johnson (2004).

**Possible Explanation:** Ray Johnson, one of the editors of the 2004 book is an outstanding health physicist, and former President of the Society, who has a chapter about communication in the 2004 book. He has written many articles, presented many talks, and has a book to go with his presentations. He has made a lifetime co-profession, and has his own consulting business, dealing with the psychology and methods of communication. I have attended several of his courses since 1984, and taken his communication tests. He has found that scientists and professionals of the type in organizations like the HPS and ANS, when compared to most of the public, generally have quite different styles of receiving and delivering communication. His findings explain to me the reticence of most members of the relevant sciences, except the very few like my former colleague Dr. Sternglass, who has misled the public, to get out to talk with the public, despite the willingness of some to give innumerable talks at scientific meetings on the needs and methods of such communication. True, the HPS and ANS have done excellent work with Science Teachers Workshops and student science fairs. They also have programs to provide answers to persons who take the trouble to contact their websites. Unfortunately, however, these passive public information programs get information to only a small proportion of the public, compared to the growing misinformation that is getting to hundreds of millions, now through social as well as public media (Walchuk and Wahl 2014).

I must also plead guilty to being one of those who are reluctant to present talks to the public. However, I have forced myself more and more over the years to do so, knowing of the importance of getting scientific truth to benefit the public and their environment. I am still only 85, so I hope that when I grow up I will be like Ray Johnson.

**And so, I failed to get the HPS to establish an aggressive attempt to reach the public.**

**Failure 2:** Another example: I worked over eight years 1964-1972 in a radiation epidemiology study of nuclear energy workers, headed by Dr. Thomas Mancuso, M.D., as a co-investigator with Dr. Barkev S. Sanders. This study was sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at the University of Pittsburgh when I was on the faculty of the Department of Radiation Health. Dr. Mancuso was solicited by the AEC as the lead investigator because he had experience uncovering ill health among workers in Ohio when he was the Ohio State Medical Officer. Dr. Sanders and I helped Dr. Mancuso with the data collection, radiation interpretation, statistical procedures, and much of the writeup of project reports. Dr. Mancuso admitted little understanding of statistical methods, even though he had taken elementary statistics in matriculating for the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree some years earlier.

Together, we developed a prospective radiation epidemiology study (“prospective-retrospective” using an almost total population of workers based on the enormous records kept in the atomic energy (AEC) program). After reporting at a Hanford symposium in 1971 my own work in collecting the radiation data and checking some of Dr. Sander’s statistical analyses, and writing the part of our report on my own methodology and interim results, I left the University project in about 1972 to work full time as a physicist in radiation oncology at a local hospital, thinking the methodology and data for the project were in good shape. I was confident that my co-worker and project statistician, Dr. Barkev S. Sanders, would

be able to help Dr. Mancuso, and would carry on further studies with different control populations and other worker populations, using his precise and exhaustive analyses.

But several years after I had left the project, Mancuso fired Sanders when Sanders wrote a large and detailed draft progress report that concluded there was no evidence of cancer caused by radiation in the Hanford worker population, having carefully made certain he had accounted for “healthy worker effects” by his own unique methods, using a large and appropriate control population..

After firing Dr. Sanders, Dr. Mancuso hired Dr. Alice Stewart, an anti-nuclear activist who had admitted to me after the Hanford meeting that she did not understand statistical methods, and they dismissed the careful prospective analyses prepared by Dr. Sanders and me. They used only the much less dependable case-control methods that Dr. Stewart had used in earlier studies, with some absurd assumptions about radiation dosimetry accuracy, and reported their presumed findings of radiation caused cancers at a health physics symposium in Schenectady in the late 1970s. Although Dr. Stewart worked with a mathematical statistician, Dr. Knealle usually, she directed the calculations he was to perform. A simple example of the absurdity of one of their claims is presented in an appendix of (Brodsky 1996).

I was shocked and dismayed by the loss of the careful work over the years, especially by that of Dr. Sanders. At the same symposium, when Mancuso and Stewart presented their presumed findings, more respected medical investigators refuted their report. Yet, the media headlined their report, ignoring the more reputable epidemiologists. Dr. Sanders and I published papers in the Health Physics journal refuting in detail why the Mancuso-Stewart so-called findings were improperly derived, with references to dozens of other reputable epidemiologists who also refuted the Mancuso-Stewart papers. Even after these papers were published, and after I testified later about this before House and Senate committees, and talked with reporters who were there but turned off the cameras after Mancuso testified, the media still reported the Mancuso-Stewart claims as truth. The Mancuso-Stewart articles still continued appearing in some “peer-reviewed” journals as well as the media, and this team became darlings of the environmentally-destructive, anti-nuclear-power, movement. (Much more detailed information on this issue, and the related published references, including testimonies before the House and Senate, are in Brodsky (1996, 2014).) Despite meetings with reporters, the media attention to Mancuso continued.

**Thus, I failed again.** I could not make the Mancuso and Stewart team understand statistics, nor could I get the media to report the refutations of mine and Dr. Sanders’, nor convince the media to give adequate coverage of the many other competent investigators who also refuted Mancuso and Stewart. Many of these investigators who refuted Mancuso and Stewart were very prestigious internationally in the sciences of biostatistics and epidemiology. Some references to their work are in my books and published papers.

**Failure 3:** Another failure of mine was from 1961 to 1971, also when I was on the faculty of the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh. In about 1962, I was impressed with the application for a professorship in the Radiation Health program at GSPH by a Dr. Ernest Sternglass, who wanted to leave Westinghouse to pursue research on the development of digital x ray diagnostic imaging, which would greatly shorten exposure times and yet save and amplify images of good diagnostic quality but with much less radiation dose to the patient. I recommended to Dr. Niel Wald that I thought he would be a valuable addition to our faculty.

I soon found out, after Ernie was hired, that he had major side interest in opposing any civil defense protection of the public in the event of nuclear attacks, and also had a side interest in examining radioactive fallout from the then very-active atmospheric nuclear tests in Nevada and the Pacific. Ernie would often come to me with draft papers or back-of-the-envelope calculations of fallout doses and effects at various locations in the USA.

Soon after he joined GSPH, I thought he had some unique ways of looking at epidemiologic data as a physicist, and helped him obtain the assistance of a committee of biostatistics and epidemiology faculty to help him develop a proper research proposal for his hobby of radiation fallout studies. He had prepared a draft paper about some early fallout from nuclear tests in Nevada where rain had brought down radioactive fallout in substantial amounts in Troy, New York, a situation in which I thought there might well be some significant exposures to the public. However, one by one the other professors on the assembled committee refused further participation when they began to see his unreviewed claims published in the newspapers.

When his publication about the fallout in Troy, New York, was first turned down by a reputable journal, from then on he became a darling of the anti-nuclear-power movement, as well as against any civil defense life-saving efforts. His news reports and publications continued to be for decades a major inspiration to the anti-nuclear movements, since the 1960s. If interested in direct evidence of one of his most absurd newspaper claims, see Exhibit 3 in my 2011 book and my surrounding exposition of the true facts.

Exhibit 3 in Brodsky (2011) is an article by Sternglass published in newspapers around the country during the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear accident using my name, but misusing information in one of my publications. The article by Sternglass exaggerated radiation doses received by the public at TMI to be millions of times greater than was received. Sternglass was referring to information in one of my 1965 articles I had given him back then as a reprint, but in his TMI claim in 1979 of high exposures, either he had not read my article carefully or he was deliberately misusing it and misusing my name without referencing my article for anyone else to be able to find its content; he certainly was capable of understanding the article with his Ph.D. in applied physics.

In my 1965 article, referenced in Brodsky (2011), I wrote it so that safer estimates could be made of effects from radioactivity releases than had been published in an earlier paper, before adequate study of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki human data was available. (Thus, anyone reading it will see I am a good guy trying to protect the public.) I had calculated maximum doses to the public from the complete release of most of the biologically-important fission products that could escape from a nuclear power plant. With the data in my 1965 article, it would then be easy to estimate the effects of any release of fission products once the fraction released of that in the fuel was determined. The amount of each fission product in the total fuel of a nuclear power plant is well known. Amounts released can be estimated from the fractions that escape through multiple filters. Sternglass must have known that he was ignorant of the fractions released at the time he wrote his scary article and appeared on Saturday night TV, only two days after the beginning of the TMI meltdown.

These fractions were negligible at TMI for all the radionuclides contained in the reactor's nuclear fuel, except for the radioiodines, of which less than one-millionth was already known to be released at the time of Sternglass's article. Release of even the more volatile radionuclides that produce the major doses after a nuclear plant accident was very reduced by deposition on equipment and building surfaces and passing through high efficiency filters following a tortuous path into another building. The rare-gas xenons did escape but they do not react with body elements nor remain in the body long enough to give an appreciable dose (Brodsky 1982).

Yet, although my name was mentioned in his Associated Press articles published all over the U.S., I was not able to get any of my letters of refutation published. About seven of my colleagues saw the article in different locations in the USA and called me wondering why I was supporting Sternglass; I told them how I was absolutely opposed to the lie or misinformation he was propagating, but had no way to refute the AP press reports. **Thus, without effective access to refuting press misinformation, as in the**

**Mancuso hearings, or in this Sternglass fiasco, my constitutional rights of free speech were essentially violated by press censorship.**

Any reader who is interested can check my facts for himself, by reading my 1965 paper, referenced in my 2011 book along with a 2001 publication checking it with later scientific data. The material is not “space science”; I explain in these peer-reviewed papers the numbers and simple facts that make my findings understandable.

**More facts about TMI:** When my friend Dr. Reginald Gotchy, of blessed memory, measured over 700 individuals from the local population around Three Mile Island in late 1979 soon after the accident, he detected no radioactive material within any of their bodies, even with the most sensitive detectors. This exonerated me, because I had advised my Division Director at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a few days earlier that the NRC should not order an evacuation but instead should advise the public to stay in place inside their homes or offices. When the NRC decided to order evacuations, as advised by others at the same meeting, they no longer included me in their response organizations.

That left me free, on a Saturday afternoon, only two days after the start of the TMI accident meltdown, to drive five hours to the home of my former student and friend, Ken Miller, who was then at the local Penn State University hospital, in charge of decontamination and safety management of any workers at the Three Mile Island plant who might be injured and come with radioactive contamination to the hospital. None showed up by the time I arrived, nor at later times. (This was not Chernobyl. Many in the public have asked, “What about Chernobyl?” when I tell them the types of nuclear power plants in the U.S.A. are safe.) I noticed, after arriving at Ken’s home a few miles downwind from the TMI reactor, that a Geiger counter on the coffee table at Ken’s home read only natural background intensities. Nevertheless, Sternglass appeared on major TV that Saturday eve when we were watching the news at 10 p.m., scaring people about the great dangers to those in surrounding Pennsylvania. Evidently, he had already submitted his lies (or misinformation – I cannot read minds) to the Associated Press.

On the Monday after the accident began on Thursday, Ken had me talk to the medical staff about the better actions of staying on duty within the hospital, but by then even some of the medical department chairmen had left their sick patients and evacuated the area with their families, as advised by the NRC to the local authorities.

In section V-C, I summarize some information to explain why, for nuclear power plants as built in the USA, accidents, even those causing meltdown of fuel, do not expose the public to significant danger of radiation-induced health effects.

**So again, another failure: I failed to tame Ernie Sternglass, even after ten years of effort. I have also failed over the years to get press attention to his and other’s misinformation about the TMI and other nuclear incident information.**

**Failure 4: My inability to get radiation perspectives and recommendations for personal dosimeters to the Japanese after failure of the Fukushima nuclear plants**

Several weeks after the initial destruction of the Japanese reactors, on April 4, 2011, an article in The Washington Post (Englund 2011) indicated that most of the released fission products were deposited within the nuclear plant area. On April 5, 2011, an article (Higgins 2011) discussed the confusion existing over radiation levels and risks, and pointed out that a Japanese farmer within 15 miles of the reactors who refused to evacuate, and who with his family had been drinking their cows’ milk, were found in final screening to have ingested no detectable radioactive material. The negligible risks were

predicted at the end of Brodsky 2011) and have now been substantiated by the world's best scientists and physicians. (See also Cuttler 2014.)

In the same issue of Health Physics News containing the article by Edquist (2014), a sampling is presented of the enormous flow of misinformation in the three years since the tsunami caused the Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant accident (Walchuk and Wahl 2014). The article also contains interviews suggesting how to combat this disinformation. Also, the article by Edquist shows a posted sign at a Japanese home where decontamination has been completed, the sign reading a “dose” rate of 0.22  $\mu\text{Sv}$  per hour. This level of dose rate would in the traditional units be given as 0.022 mR per hour, close to one of the lowest natural background levels to which the radiation levels on earth have decreased in the billions of years since creation. In such radiation levels, the human race has grown and thrived, except for its wars.

Although current media reporters in the **USA** have generally done a good job of covering events during the disastrous tsunami and resulting dispersal of radioactivity from damaged nuclear plants, the continued emphasis by the media on **radiation** after the Fukushima accident does not provide a true perspective on the negligible risks of these radiation exposures to the Japanese public. In fact, the exposure levels of Japanese citizens were down in the range of hormetic (health benefit) levels, which are described here and in Brodsky (1996), Chapter 4 of Brodsky (2011) and Cuttler 2013a,b), and for the general citizen in Hiserodt ((2005) and Goldberg (2009).

In April 2011, a little over a month after the tsunami in Japan and the beginning of releases of radioactive material from the damaged nuclear power plants, a reporter from Japan, Mr. Kazumoto Ohno, came to my home with his assistant to interview me about possible radiation risks to the Japanese public. He had been referred to me because he learned from my department chair at the University of Pittsburgh that I had been a co-investigator with Dr. Mancuso (mentioned above). He took pictures of me, taped my answers and remarks, and his assistant took notes. In the end, I guess nothing mattered because I could not confirm, but had to deny as I did before Congress and in my publications the assertions, after I had left Mancuso's project and the good Dr. Sanders had been replaced with Dr. Alice Stewart, of findings of radiation-caused cancers in the Hanford worker population.. Thus, I suppose nothing good came out of my interview with the Japanese reporter who interviewed me in my home.

**Failed again: I could not get to the Japanese public nor to their leaders through a Japanese reporter any more than I could after decades of trying to reach US citizens or leaders through the U.S. press. (I had already sent, in the first week after the Fukushima incident, a short information news release to many U.S. reporters to provide them with some understanding of radiation events, also asking them to contact me for a discussion. None replied, except one sent a “thank you”.) It is unfortunate that Japan had since decided to close all nuclear power plants; that would be a disaster for the health and economy of Japan. However, there has been some hope lately that their leaders are starting to understand the facts.**

**Now, I will stop admitting my failures. They might soon be counteracting my successes.**

In the next subsection, I will deal with the good news about how it is possible to turn around public opinions. Some of the suggestions I make in the next subsection are lessons learned from failures, such as it is very difficult to get the important truths to the public through news media. That is one of the lessons learned from failures. However, the next section will provide some examples, adapted more briefly from my 2011 book, about how most of our intelligent public can be turned around by direct communication – a lesson most dramatically expressed independently in the book by the originally-anti-nuclear Cravens (2010). There is no indication in her book that she had ever even heard about my efforts.



## V-B -- The Good News: Opinions Detrimental to Health and the Environment Can Be Turned Around by Truth; How to Find the Information and the True Experts to Help

There are many pages in my 2011 book describing occasions where I could use plain language, or write papers, that did turn around some persons and audiences that originally had the wrong ideas about nuclear issues and radiation effects at the low levels the public is exposed to in the USA. A few examples from my 2011 book of how I found it not too difficult to turn somebody around to are:

- The description under **Exhibit 9** shows how I briefed several hundred responders in the National Capitol Region who were being trained at an official DHS-sponsored course. I had been invited to sit in by the homeland security chair of my Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the HPS. The exhibit shows how I demonstrated that a GM counter reading of about 20,000 counts per minute, which they first were afraid was a high and dangerous intensity, corresponded to 10 mR per hour, in which they could stay for 6 weeks without exceeding the usual 25 rem suggested limit in emergencies. Provided with an overhead projector, I was able to make this demonstration in about 5 minutes, with answers to questions afterward. They enthusiastically accepted the free SIRAD dosimeters that Dr. Patel had provided to me. The attendees seemed to overwhelmingly respond positively to my demonstration. I was later requested to come back to further classes to repeat the demonstration. See the written material accompanying **Exhibit 9**.
- My participation writing a chapter in the book, *Nuclear Power: Both Sides*. The editor of the book and his young assistant, Dr. Michio Kaku and Jennifer Trainer, were both anti-nuclear activists. Bernie Cohen and I had been invited to write two chapters, but initially Bernie thought he would turn it down, because he knew the senior editor to be a biased anti-nuclear theoretical physicist and his assistant was influenced by him to be the same way. The young assistant, Jennifer, with a degree in journalism, was assigned to be my editor, and changed some material I had wanted in my chapter. However, both Bernie and I decided to complete our chapters because we felt the book could end up worse without them. At the very end, Jennifer, after spending months discussing the chapter with me, admitted freely to me that I had changed her opinion about nuclear power being dangerous. The reference to the book with Bernie's chapter and my Chapter, "Protecting the Public," is in my 2011 book.
- A talk that I gave at an evening panel presentation to The League of Women Voters in Cleveland, which was attended by my estimate of up to about 200 women from the large urban area. I was assigned to present slides about how nuclear power plants were evaluated by the NRC, even though I was at the time working only on the materials licensing guides and projects. When a question was handed to me later when my turn came on the panel, it was about nuclear waste safety. At that point, I stated it was not possible for me in a few minutes to refute all the misstatements made by the anti-nuke panel members, and that Dr. David Waite, who later became President of the Health Physics Society, was the expert on nuclear waste. I said, however, I would attempt my answer after showing a few remaining slides about my background, which had not been adequately introduced. (I had planted these slides because of the experience on a Saturday TV show in Miami after the TMI accident mentioned in my 2011 book in which I was introduced as a scientist from the government, debating the Nobel Prize recipient Dr. George Wald from Harvard, which is also described in my 2011 book.) I asked for the next few slides, on which the first showed me kissing my sweet old mother on the forehead, while I said, "This is my dear mother; she taught me to always tell the truth, be honest and protect the family name"; the next slide showed a picture of my wife and children, and I said something like, "This is my wife and my beautiful young children, they eat the same food, drink the same water, and live in the same environment

as your children, and I care just as much about environmental safety and public health as anyone else here.” After the meeting was over and I was waiting to go to coffee with my hosts, I was approached by the young women activist who was brought by an anti-nuke high school teacher of middle age; both had been on the panel on “the other side.” She said to me pretty much like this, “You are the first human being I have known coming from Washington!” I talked with her a few minutes and invited her to visit me at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and I would show her around and explain the safety processes we use in licensing. She said she would like to come down, but a bit later I overheard her being scolded by the older teacher for talking with me – as I heard it. This experience demonstrates the need to show your audience, one person or 200, that you care, which is usually pointed out now in many presentations at professional meetings.

I will not summarize any further experiences covered in my 2011 book. The above should suffice to provide **the good news**:

**It is possible for anyone with the facts to spread truth to almost anyone in the public with an open mind, simply by showing you care, introducing the facts in plain language, and talking to them directly in person.**

It has now been pointed out in many presentations of the Health Physics Society (HPS) over the past few decades that you must show people you care about their feelings before they will care about what you say. The problem is: We need to get those with the facts who care out *en masse* to talk to the public. It can not be done through the media, or through official government agencies, so far. I still hope that whole armies of those who know the facts will talk directly to the public, as I attempted to do in my description of my **Failure 1 above**. I can still provide copies of the program I recommended to the Health Physics Society in 2002.

I have also pointed out some books by others in my references that would be helpful with presentations to the public, if a major portion of our population and political leaders would be encouraged to read them; they were written by great scientists and engineers whom I knew personally to be honest, dedicated to public health and welfare, and to be practically geniuses in putting scientific truths to words the public could understand -- like the books of Drs. Bernard L. Cohen, Ted Rockwell, Alan Waltar, and Gwyneth Cravens, to name a few. If their books had been read by a majority of the American public or as best sellers, I might not have needed to write some of my own books, including this one. However, the distribution of the books by these outstanding professionals and writers were distributed to only about tens of thousands, compared to the hundreds of millions of USA citizens who can read. (Their books can sometimes be obtained at discounts by searching for them on Amazon.com.) I needed to be much briefer in this Handbook, as some of my friendly critics advised. Some did not want me to have any references, but I need somehow to document the supporting information I present. Certainly, only less than one person in 10,000 could have ever heard of me. Anyone picking up my book would look at and put it down saying, “Allen who?”

Then, one morning in the last days of writing this book, I remembered the book by Gwyneth Cravens (Cravens 2010), the early edition of 2007 of which I had read about six years ago. She was a former novelist, writer of fiction and non-fiction in a number of magazines, and an editor at *The New Yorker* and *Harper's Magazine*. She had also been an activist in opposing a nuclear power plant in New York when she met a scientist, Dr. Rip Anderson at a friend's dinner party. Rip had been a scientist, engineer, and manager at a number of different plants in the nuclear energy production processes. He not only began to answer her questions about the safety or dangers of nuclear energy, but offered to escort her to see the various types of production facilities in the chain that ultimately produces nuclear energy and its

byproducts. Following her education by Rip, she changed her views about radiation risks and nuclear energy, took on the challenge of writing book, reviewing much of the published literature on the subject, and interviewing many of the scientists and engineers whom I have known and who have been leaders in nuclear science and engineering and have written the important treatises that should have been read by more citizens. I have found her book such interesting and clear reading that it is difficult for me to put it down.

Therefore, my job in writing this section has been made easy. **The ways you the reader can find the competent experts to learn the truth, and spread the truth**, about the safety of nuclear energy, and check the facts about radiation effects in this handbook, include:

- Obtain a copy of *Power to Save the World* by Gwyneth Cravens (Cravens 2010), read it, mark up what you feel are important sentences; and discuss it with, and recommend the book to, your friends, and especially to your congressional representatives and staff;
- Invite a member of the American Nuclear Society or Health Physics Society to speak to one of your local organizations, or contact the **SARI** organization below for a recommendation;
- Check with the public information sites of the HPS and ANS, and their Q and A services; call their officers and contacts on their web sites. However, many in these professional organizations have been dealing with methods of estimating risk using the LNT hypothesis, and might not be familiar with radiation protective or hormetic effects at low doses, mentioned earlier in this handbook. However, they will be able to speak to the absurdities of those who have grossly exaggerated radiation effects to defeat nuclear power and civil defense efforts (see Walchuk and Wahl (2014) and search the HPS at <http://www.hps.org> ;
- In Japan, consult groups of scientists (physicians, physicists, health physicists, and radiobiologists) who are associated with the leading academic institutions and the reliable Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) studying the Hiroshima and Nagasaki populations exposed to atomic bomb radiation;
- In the USA, consult scientists affiliated with a number of academic and research institutes (e.g., check the website of the National Council for Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP). However, these semi-official expert groups often have members who are among the best researchers or doctors, yet have some bias against discussing hormetic effects at low doses and dose rates. We have a Congress that does not understand that low-dose research with radiation can lead to discoveries that help find cures for cancer and other diseases. I suspect there is some legitimate fear among members of an organization like the NCRP that if they propose publicly that low radiation doses are not dangerous, Congress might well reduce all low-dose research funds to zero. We need more scientists and top medical researchers in Congress, but they are usually of the personalities found by Ray Johnson who would avoid public office, although that is somehow not so in France (Brodsky 2010);
- To obtain the best scientific information on the facts about protective effects of the human immune and related systems at low radiation intensities, and the beneficial effects of certain applications at high or low doses, contact a new organization of some of the top scientists who have investigated this subject at the website of **Scientists for Accurate Radiation Information (SARI)** at <http://radiationeffects.org>. (Note: Radiation-Effects.com is a different site.) The articles by Cuttler (2013, 2014) are among the sources on this site, and many more lead to publications and sources of information on this subject. See the statement by the founder of NCRP, Dr. Lauriston Taylor (Taylor 1980). Lauriston Taylor, of blessed memory, once told me how many times he tried to educate the media over many decades, without much success.

Also, members of the **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons** can provide information on the levels of radiation exposure that are below the range where harmful effects would occur. This association can be reached at the website [www.jpands.org](http://www.jpands.org). Also, trust those

scientists referenced in my publications who have performed the basic radiation research, and who are listed as trustworthy in my references.

I must opine that Gwyneth Cravens, whom I have not met, must be a genius or extremely brilliant, as well as a great writer, to have digested such vast material from her many interviews with top scientists and engineers, and from reading scientific books and articles, and to have produced such a comprehensive treatise on these issues, with enough references to document and support all of her now-adopted views about nuclear power and its byproducts. Her book alone could well have the “power to save the world,” as the title implies.

Although Cravens’ book sold well for this type of book, she informed me that it sold about 30,000 copies. With a USA population of about 100,000,000 readers, her distribution amounted to only 30,000/100,000,000 of the population, which is a fraction of 0.0003, or 0.03% of our population – not enough to make a political difference compared to the millions who have been misled by the information generally available to the public from entertainment and media sources. This is also true of the other books by outstanding scientists and engineers whom I have referenced.

### **Bottom Lines:**

- If we can not get our better scientists and engineers out *en masse* ( in the thousands) to talk with the public, those of us who understand the problem must get Craven’s book in the hands of many who might have a bully pulpit from frequent appearances on the news or C-Span, especially our congressional representatives who are the best presenters and who can also influence national policy. The book is rather inexpensive and can be presented to our representatives and staffs as dedicated gifts.
- Decades of effort by some of our leading scientists, including Dr. Lauriston Taylor, who founded the NCRP, have failed to get the media to provide an accurate picture of the safety of nuclear energy and its byproducts, as regulated in the USA for decades based upon NCRP standards. Dr. Taylor, who passed away at age 102 some years ago, once told me how many times he approached the media to correct misinformation and was ignored. (Thus, I should not feel so bad.)
- It is not likely we will get scientists and engineers out *en masse* to present truths and correct falsehoods. Very few are like Ray Johnson on one side, and Ernie Sternglass on the other – both persons I have known well. Perhaps it because our studies required so much burial in books and calculations that we had little time to develop social skills, and perhaps that is why many of us are called “nerds.”
- Decades of effort by many of us proves that we will not get the job done through the mass media, nor through government agencies’ public information systems, which must always be conservative and politically correct.
- Without turning around the public and our representatives (who come from the public), we will continue to burn coal, produce air pollution, and destroy the environment digging it up, continue to blow up homes with failed gas lines, and continue to spill oil on pristine water resources and farms. The so-called “green” sources of energy will never provide us with economic and public health. Just read the book by Cravens and those by others I have referenced, such as Ted Rockwell, Alan Waltar, and Bernard L. Cohen; I have known and admired all three of the latter. I admire Gwyneth Cravens whenever I pick up her book.
- France got it right. France adopted our light water reactor designs because they were more efficient and safer than their own under deGaulle’s administration, “Frenchified” them with a few changes to retain their national pride, got government and industrial factions together to provide standard, approved designs, and now have about 80% of their energy produced by pollution-free, carbon dioxide-free, energy. Some of their energy is used to help nearby nations. However, France is an old country and has had much time to learn from some of its many mistakes. The

USA is much younger, so in the matter of energy production, perhaps there is hope that the USA will be more like France when it grows up (I am dealing here only with the matter of energy production). Please read the book by the history professor who studied how France politically and socially was able to advance nuclear power, or at least read my two-page review of the book (Brodsky 2010).

#### **V-C -- Factors that limit the risks from nuclear power plants with molten nuclear fuel**

Experiments by Beard, summarized in (Brodsky and Beard 1960), were performed in 1957, in which two nuclear fuel elements, each containing thousands of curies of fission products, were taken bare – outside of all of the protective barriers that are in an actual nuclear power plant – and melted down in the Idaho desert, surrounded by the most inflammable materials and fuel that might be present in an aircraft crash. Results showed that for the refractory material of which nuclear fuel and its coverings are made, almost all of the nuclear material except volatile gases remained in areas the size of large rooms. Although some radionuclides could be measured hundreds of meters downwind (by very sensitive instruments such as Geiger-counters), the vast amount of area where these radioactive materials could be measured was not at radiation levels that would be dangerous to health.

The field experiments described briefly above, and many others since, explain in part the insignificant health effects of the limited releases from the Three Mile Island accident of 1979 (Brodsky 1982). Media reports to the contrary, which frightened many in the public to take improper actions and harbor unfounded fears even to this day, were taken from interviews of completely uniformed scientists. Again, you may examine in an e-book version of my 2011 book, in Exhibit 3, my exposition of the truth about the releases at TMI, and see how it documents how Dr. Sternglass falsely accused the government, particularly the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in an Associate Press article all over the nation, of lying about radiation releases only two days after beginning of meltdown. Later in the same book, I provide tables of the quantities of biologically-significant radionuclides present in nuclear reactors of various operating and cooling times, as well as the amounts in short bursts (atomic bombs). Brodsky (1982) provides the fractions of radionuclides released, as determined some weeks after the TMI accident.

Thus, Sternglass was the one who lied to the public, not the NRC, and he used my name twice without my seeing his article beforehand, and without any way to refute it in the public media, only in my articles and books. That is why I must repeat it here. This is just one example of the many I have personally experienced of misinformation about radiation given to the public that I document in my 2011 book). (Also see my other book references.)

Not only were the doses to the public that I had predicted at TMI negligible, my colleague of blessed memory, Dr. Reginald Gotchy, placed in a very sensitive “whole body counter” over 700 persons who were in the vicinity of the TMI releases. He found no trace of radioactive material in anyone’s body. The Pennsylvania health department radioepidemiological studies found no excess cancers in the population after the TMI accident. Beard’s field burning of fuel elements in pools of aircraft fuel surrounded by combustibles, mentioned above, as well as later studies of fractional releases and inhalation literature, had much to do with my predictions at the end of my 2011 book about Fukushima releases. These predictions were substantiated very early by Englund (2011), and in the ensuing years at meetings of the Health Physics Society and the NCRP. The primarily local deposition in Japan, combined with the great dilution of any radioactive plumes and their fallout as they passed into the vast Pacific Ocean, resulted in no possibility of health effects in the USA. Brown (2011), quoting several government officials soon after the Fukushima disaster, was one reporter who was on the mark.

### **Why many actions to protect against harmful radiation levels and blast of bombs also protect against other agents and natural disasters:**

The actions recommended earlier in sections IV-A, IV-B, and IV-D, to stock emergency supplies, provide available shelter at home or work, and prepare to help trauma victims, obviously can be helpful in saving life not only from events releasing radioactive materials, but also from many other kinds of natural and man-made disasters:

Measures recommended to avoid inhaling or ingesting radioactive material, or staying away from passing clouds that could contain toxic materials, would evidently save lives in the event of some natural disasters or events such as those in 9/11, where many responders have later suffered from breathing the debris from the falling buildings, which evidently contained asbestos as well as other toxic dusts and fumes. Thus, preparations to save life in the event of nuclear bomb or RDD attacks would also protect against other types of disasters.

## **VI. Conclusions**

As news reports are beginning to show, there is little likelihood that members of the public in Japan, or even for any of those within the fifty mile evacuation area recommended for United States citizens, will receive radiation doses that will cause early or late harmful effects. This is partly because radiation exposures received internally will occur over time, be relatively low, and be compensated by natural repair processes (just as very limited exposures to the same amount of sun, very gradual steps of tanning, do not cause serious burns or the higher likelihood of cancer). Chapters 1 and 2 of (Brodsky 2011) show the exaggerations of radiation risks in much of media presentations, and Chapter 4 includes examples of hormetic effects of low, extended, exposures to radiation (see Cuttler's references).

Those workers assigned to nuclear plant recoveries, however, could sustain serious health effects or even die if the officials do not enforce well-known safety provisions and emergency limits of exposure, whereas the public could panic and cause more deaths than would occur by radiation at lower exposure levels without adequate knowledge and preparation in the event of a release of radioactive material. As Cuttler has shown, 1100 persons died in Japan unnecessarily, and many more suffered away from their homes, because of restrictions improperly proposed by authorities who were not adequately prepared to differentiate between risks or lack thereof at various exposure levels. I do not believe that the Japanese officials and plant managers are not competent. They just did not adequately prepare the public, local responders, and the press to avoid panic, and recommend only needed evacuations.

There are some who have been influenced to oppose nuclear power in the USA who have been distributing exaggerated fears of all nuclear plants; it is my prerogative here to caution that these persons do not have adequate backgrounds to support their fears. The latest nuclear facilities proposed have additional safety features that would prevent the occurrence of the type of situation currently in Japan, even for the worst types of earthquakes. It may be noted that France has seen it fit to adopt our pressurized water reactors in the 1970s and now has almost eighty percent of its base electric power obtained from nuclear energy (Brodsky 2010). A reading of the book by Gwyneth Cravens (Cravens 2010) should be considered essential for anyone interested in understanding the safety and environmentally friendly aspects of nuclear energy compared to the environmental devastation continuing to occur with the necessary use of carbon burning with the ultimate limitations of other assumed "green" energy sources. Cravens, who turned away from being anti-nuclear energy after examining all aspects with an open mind, also deals with the questions of the health effects of radiation, and also their absence in the current safety of applications of nuclear energy and its many beneficial byproducts in the USA.

The facts in this short article are supported by further information and documentation in my 2011 book. My opinions result from over sixty years as a physicist, health physicist, biostatistician, radiation science professor at three universities, and co-investigator for more than eight years of a major radiation epidemiology study of radiation workers in the United States. A brief paragraph of my background related to this subject is at the bottom of the flyer on the last page of this booklet.

All data and recommendations in Brodsky (2011) are documented in a more extensive list of references. A few selected references from the 2011 book are included in this booklet to support information and recommendations in this booklet; a few additional references are also at the end of this booklet. Documentation in the references is also supported by the author's varied personal experiences and research from over sixty years as a physicist, health physicist, biostatistician, and professor, as summarized in the flyer on the last page. **This handbook also provides the minimum information needed for understanding and placing in perspective the news reports about releases of radioactive material.**

Hormetic effects are not recognized in government regulations, which are designed to keep levels in peacetime very low to prevent larger exposures. However, when radioactive material is released unexpectedly in large amounts, the situation is not then under regulatory control, so it should be apparent that the real effects, non-effects, or even hormetic effects, must be taken into account in planning responder or remedial measures. Otherwise, more harm than good can be done by inappropriate actions such as mass evacuation from areas where more deaths than lives saved could occur, as at Fukushima, in attempting to lower risks that are not present by inappropriate evacuations, or restricting foods or products that are not really dangerous to health.

Only a short summary of health effects is presented in this booklet. More is detailed, with references, in my 1996, 2004, and 2011 books. Shane Connor's **Afterword** (Connor 2013)), with "tongue in cheek," will suffice to succinctly make the point that the vast majority of us, even some homeland security leaders, are grossly uninformed about ways of surviving radiological dispersal. Decades of exaggeration of radiation effects in the media have caused generations of citizens to fear even the smallest radiation exposures, below even levels that would not entail any risks.

Again, actions for surviving nuclear blasts and radioactive fallout would also do much to improve survival from other blasts or severe natural disasters, as well as from the release of other toxic agents. Some of the simple actions in the exhibits should be posted for frequent reading and reference.

May this booklet induce many to prepare for saving lives in the event of man-made or natural disasters, and to demand from our governments a greater effort to provide shelters, and empowerment to its citizens with dosimeters and information, before such disasters occur.

## Appendix A – Glossary: Short Definitions of New Words Used in This Book

**Atomic bomb (or Nuclear Bomb)** – Usually refers to a bomb like the ones at Hiroshima or Nagasaki, where very **heavy atoms like uranium-235 or plutonium-239** break in two (**fission**) and a few more neutrons are released that break up more and cause an avalanche of energy release, according to Einstein's  $E = mc^2$ . When the energy avalanche is contained in a heavy steel case until its pressure is too great, the case breaks and an explosion occurs.

**Hydrogen bomb** – A hydrogen bomb is also an atomic (nuclear) bomb, but one in which the two **lightest atoms, hydrogen-1 (H) and deuterium (hydrogen-2, a proton with neutron added)**, fuse together (**fusion**) as they bump in to each other at the extremely high speeds caused by a surrounding fission bomb detonation (uranium or plutonium) that heats the **H-D mixture to temperatures like those on the sun**.

**Explanation:** The energies released by hydrogen bombs are usually thousands of times greater than those of what we are calling atomic bombs. When we talk of hydrogen bombs in this book, we are talking of the **H-D fusion bombs**. In hydrogen (fusion) bombs, energy  $E = mc^2$  is released because the mass of the fused H-3 (tritium) atom **is less than the total of the H and D atoms that fuse together**. In the fission bombs (uranium or plutonium) energy is released because **the two fragments (fission products) together weigh less than the original uranium or plutonium atom before it breaks up (fissions) in two**.

**Relative explosion energy released:** When talking of the impacts of what we call her atomic or hydrogen bombs, we talk in terms of the impact of comparable amounts of TNT (trinitrotoluene), which everyone is familiar with. Comparisons are either in the kiloton (kT) or megaton (MT) energy release of TNT. Atomic bombs that use uranium or plutonium, like the ones at Hiroshima or Nagasaki, in about about the **15 kiloton (kT), release energies equal to about 15,000 tons of TNT**, which for ton of 2,000 pounds, amounts to more than  $15,000 \times 2,000 =$  **30,000,000 pounds (30 million pounds) of TNT**. A **1 kT bomb**, which could easily be brought into a harbor and cause devastation and contamination to a large city, would be **equivalent to a 2 million pound bomb of TNT**. A **15 MT hydrogen bomb**, about like the ones I was assigned to in the Army as a physicist, release the equivalent of **30,000,000,000 (30 billion) pounds of TNT**. See concise but complete-enough chapters by the great Drs. John Auxier (2004) and Joe Alvarez (2004).

**Exposure** – The amount of radiation rays or particles flowing toward an area of your body. Units of exposure are defined below. Learn units in summaries of section II: roentgen (R); coulombs/kg (C/kg).

**Dose** -- The amount of energy deposited per unit mass at a point in tissue, or averaged over the whole body, according to what is being discussed. Units of dose are Section II: rad, gray (Gy). rem, sievert (Sv).

**Fallout** -- In this book, the material descending onto the ground that has radioactive material in it.

**Half-Life** – The time it takes for a radioactive atom to break down until only half is left.

**IND** – Short for “improvised nuclear device,” something about 1 kT that can be assembled by anyone.

**Radioactivity** – The emission of alpha, beta, or gamma rays when unstable atoms break up. Units are in section II: curie (Ci), Becquerel (Bq); see summaries in bold type.

**RDD** – A bomb laced with radioactive material to scare people. See best information in Alvarez (2004). Unfortunately, in the public media these have been called “dirty bombs,” but they are not full of germs.



## Appendix B – Methods for Checking Food and Water Concentrations for Emergency Use

This appendix is provided for the use of scientists, or members of the public with backgrounds in science teaching or other interests, who might be available to help that small portion of the public who might need to rely on food or water that might have been exposed to radioactive fallout (such as the Japanese farmer mentioned earlier who refused to evacuate from Fukushima and needed to drink milk and eat food from his farm Englund 2011; Higgins 2011). As recommended earlier, all citizens should be able to find canned, bottled, or other foods protected from fallout within their home cabinets or refrigerators, and have sufficient supplies on hand for at least two weeks, and preferable longer as quantities for preserving life.

The following table in **Exhibit 15** of concentrations of radioactive material in food or water for consumption during emergencies includes recommended limits for 10-day consumption, based upon the fact that the food and water if exposed in an open garden or farm to fallout will not be ingested for many months or years. Many official recommendations of government bodies (see Brodsky 2011) provide limits of contamination in food and water after emergencies, assuming they might be used for an unlimited amount of time, even perhaps a lifetime, and the general population will include infants and children who might be more susceptible than adults. Some recommendations are given after the table of concentrations below, for further reduction of these concentrations for infants or children.

## Exhibit 15 – Limits on Food and Water Concentrations for Emergencies\*

The following table of 10-day emergency limits of radioactive materials is taken from Brodsky and Stangler (2004). For **simple home-made ways in which the average citizen can test food and water** against this table, with high margins of safety, see the next page.

Nuclide Mix	Activity ( $\mu\text{Ci cm}^{-3}$ )	Activity ( $\text{Bq kg}^{-1}$ )	Effective Dose <sup>†</sup> After 10 Days (Sv) (1 Sv = 100 rem)
Gross fission product beta activity (< 30 days decay after burst) (FCDA 1955)	0.09	3,000,000	0.043 (using Ce-141 as surrogate)
Gross alpha activity from nuclear burst (any period after burst) (FCDA 1955) (Not likely to be detected as important in early fallout material.)	0.005	180,000	0.9 (Pu-239 as surrogate, but delivered over 50 years)
Phosphorus-32	0.015	500,000	0.024
Cobalt-60	0.03	1,000,000	0.068
Strontium-Yttrium-90	0.0003	10,000	0.0056
Mo-99-Tc-99m	0.08	2,500,000	0.03
Iodine-125	0.03	1,000,000	0.13
Iodine-131	0.002	60,000	0.026
Cesium-137-Barium-137m	0.012	400,000	0.104
Iridium-192	0.03	1,000,000	0.028
Polonium-210	0.0006	20,000	0.48
Radium-226 plus daughters	0.000012	400	0.0022
Plutonium-238/239	0.003	100,000	0.50
Americium-241	0.003	100,000	0.40
Curium-244	0.003	100,000	0.24
Uranium (natural or depleted)	0.03	1,000,000	0.9
Thorium (natural)	0.0015	50,000	0.23

### **\*Emergency levels of radioactivity in water and food for 10-day consumption.**

\*The values for mixed fission products and gross alpha activity after a burst are taken from a 1955 recommendation of the Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA), referenced in Brodsky (2011). These recommendations were derived by a group of professors expert in toxicology, and although concentration recommendations for lifetime exposure are different and have been somewhat changed over the years, the recommendations for mixed fission products are still deemed quite safe today. The values for the single nuclides deemed in a 2003 American Nuclear Society (ANS) report and by Alvarez (Brodsky 2004), plus two additional nuclides that are in widespread use in nuclear medicine, have been obtained by taking the ratios of the earlier maximum permissible concentration (MPC) for water in peacetime (Brodsky 1996) of the nuclides divided by the MPC for Ce-141 of  $0.003 \mu\text{Ci cm}^{-3}$  as multipliers of the values for gross beta activity in FCDA (1955) (See Brodsky and Stangler (2004) for the reasons these derivations are deemed safe). These ratios are approximately the same as obtained from the tables of Eckerman in Brodsky *et al.* (2004).

†The effective dose is the sum of the products of committed dose equivalent over 50 years multiplied by the tissue weighting factors of ICRP 60 (International Commission on Radiological Protection), as calculated by Eckerman (2004) for single nuclides, except for I-125, where the main dose is to thyroid and the committed dose from NCRP Report No. 70 (published by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements in 1982) is multiplied by the weighting factor 0.05 as used for thyroid in ICRP Report 61 (published by the International Commission on Radiological Protection in 1991).

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### **Further notes on the above table for any scientists using it in response or recovery periods:**

The suggested limits for 10-day ingestion under emergency conditions may be extended for longer time periods by reducing the intakes in inverse proportion to time. Concentration values can be converted to adult intakes, if needed, by assuming a water intake of about 2,000 cubic centimeters per day, or a food intake of at least 2,000 kilocalories (Calories) per day at an energy value of about 4 Calories per gram (for combined carbohydrate, fat, and protein). Assuming a rounded density of 1 gram per cc for food results in a food intake on the order of 500 cc per day.

**Note:** The Japanese government has set a safe allowance level of radioactivity in foods at  $100 \text{ Bq kg}^{-1}$  (Edquist 2014). This is 1,000 times less than the emergency level above for plutonium-239, and even 4 times less than that for radium-226, even though these more radiotoxic nuclides are not among those emitted from the Japanese nuclear power plants. Although the Japanese government is undoubtedly assuming that the radionuclides to be ingested will remain in food and water for more than 10 days, the radionuclides of importance from the Fukushima reactor emissions will not have such radiological and environmental half-lives to be around in substantial quantities after several weeks.

### **A simple and safe\* way of testing food and water for 10-day emergency use in the home:**

For a layman with a **comparison standard** made as described below, and a simple open-window Geiger counter (which allows beta radiation to enter the Geiger tube), may be used, for any of the likely individual or combined mixtures, to check for allowable for 10-day ingestion: **An open-window geiger counter at 1 cm from an ointment tin-sized sample (or in any inverted metal lid of, say, a 16 ounce bottle of spaghetti sauce) containing a few ounces of food or water will indicate it is safe for emergency consumption for 10 days if the Geiger counter reads less above the food or water than above the comparison standard.** (Suggested limits for alpha emitters like plutonium are also given in the above table and the book, but this information is deemed much less important for this current citizen summary.)

### **Preparation of a Comparison Standard Containing a Safe\* Low Amount of Uranium**

The beta radiation comparison standard is prepared in the lid of a 4-ounce ointment tin (7.9 cm diameter by 2.3 cm height as described in the 1955 FCDA pamphlet, but now the inverted metal lid from a 16-ounce bottle of spaghetti sauce would do) as a base to hold the sample. Each standard is prepared by mixing 3.14 grams of finely divided (60 mesh) uranyl acetate (obtained in a one-pound bottle from a chemical company) in 5 grams of liquid casting plastic, or asphalt. Other uranium oxides or salts could be used (Brodsky 2011). Thoroughly mix the liquid plastic with the uranium powder, add 6 to 8 drops of the catalyst that is purchased with the liquid plastic (in a hobby shop), stir with a glass rod for 5 minutes. Clean the ointment tin or inverted lid with detergent, rinse and dry. Then, weigh about 9 grams of the uranium-plastic mixture into the lid or tin; 9 grams would be about one-third of an ounce weighed on a postal scale. Next, heat the lid at low heat on the flat surface of a stove until the material in the lid begins to harden, then remove it from the stove. Overheating will cause the plastic to separate from the lid.

**Notes on using the comparison standard with a Geiger counter to check food and water, or just using the counter even without the standard:**

- First, the reader should know that the emergency recommendations in this booklet are my own, and have not been blessed by any agency of government, or any expert scientific group (although they are consistent with limits on emergency intake and levels of internal radiation dose in the 1950 recommendations of the Federal Civil Defense Administration). More recent “Generic Action Levels” for radioactive materials in foodstuffs for public consumption after emergency release, as recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), are included in Exhibit 32 of my book, and will be seen to be much lower than the 10-day (or 30-day if divided by 3) limits for the levels given. However, the IAEA and NCRP table values are for long-term intake; they will be seen to be consistent with those in the above table if the ratio of times for use of these foodstuffs were applied to the values in the above table.
- Only the first line in the table is applicable for mixed fission products in fallout that was released from nuclear bombs (sometimes euphemistically called “improvised nuclear devices” (INDs) in media or government reports), or short-burst criticality accidents such as that at Chernobyl. These first-line values are applicable for bombs or short bursts only if the measurements are made within 30 days after detonation. After that, longer-term nuclides such as strontium-90 and cobalt-60 might become more important parts of the mixture biologically; their much lower limits of intake can be seen in the above table. I would also note that, if the mixture of fission products from the Three Mile Island (TMI) accident meltdown were entirely released to the atmosphere, which it was not, then the limits of intake in the first line of the above table would have been applicable only if the measurements of food and water were made in the first 3 days after release. Only less than one-millionth of the volatile iodine nuclides were released to the environment (Brodsky 1982). Exhibit 3 in Brodsky (2011) and surrounding comments should be examined by readers interested in the extreme misinformation and exaggeration of risks from TMI presented to the public by one of my former colleagues. Measurements showed that nobody in the public was exposed to harmful levels of radiation exposure from TMI. This is one of the main reasons I have needed to write my books.

- Lines below the first in the table are included so that individual nuclides that might be included in dirty bombs can be assessed for emergency use in food or water. The activity concentration of  $0.09 \mu\text{Ci cm}^{-3}$  is seen in Exhibit 33 of Brodsky (2011) to be equivalent to 180,000 disintegrations per second. The beta emission from these disintegrations may be assumed to be the same number, and half would be emitted upward and half downward into the inverted lid. Therefore, from the table above, comparing the  $0.0003 \mu\text{Ci cm}^{-3}$  limit for strontium-90 with the 0.09 limit for mixed fission products, an emission rate in the upward direction of 900 betas per minute per cubic centimeter of food or water would be the limit for the strontium-90 consistent with risk assessment methods of the international committees.
- Considering: the above information; the fact that any strontium-90 obtained by terrorists and further subjected to the oxidation of a bomb explosion is not likely to be taken up through the gastrointestinal lining into the circulation and deposited in the body; and the fact that 9 ounces, which would be almost 300 cubic centimeters of food or water, it is evident that an upward flux of flux of  $300 \times 900 = 270,000$  betas per minute would not be harmful, even for strontium-90 – the single beta emitter giving the highest effective internal radiation dose to internal organs, i.e., of bone and bone marrow.
- Therefore, I was wrong in my calculations in Brodsky (2011); I had not considered that almost 300 grams, or cc, of food or water was being tested. I was thus too restrictive in suggesting a very conservative count rate of 1,000 counts per minute. Even with the Geiger counter at distances of several centimeters from the 9 ounce food or water sample, with less than 10% of the upward betas entering through the thin open window, 20,000 counts per minute would not likely indicate a harmful level of intake of bomb or criticality fission products, or even single nuclides from a dirty bomb at any time after explosion – even without the need for comparison with a standard.
- Caution should be used by members of the public to obtain Geiger counters or other instruments with windows thin enough to allow entry of any of the beta emissions from the nuclides listed in the above table. Manufacturers (listed in in Appendix F of Brodsky (2011)) should be consulted about specifications and price before selecting an appropriate instrument by a group in a neighborhood. An adequate instrument should be available for about \$500, contributed by several neighbors. If needed, training and assistance should be obtained from a high school physics or chemistry teacher in the neighborhood; many have attend courses conducted by members of the Health Physics Society over many decades in the past.
- The beta count rate of about 16,000 per minute from the uranium-coated ashtray in Exhibit 5, which is similar to the orange Fiestaware dinner plates on your grandma's table, may be compared with the 20,000 estimate above for emergency limits on contaminated food. Although these are count rates from different types of samples, the comparison might provide the perspective that what seems like a lot of radioactivity might still not be high enough to be a serious hazard. Radiation doses and risks must be carefully analyzed. There is no evidence that anyone was harmed by these dinner plates, used only for fractions of days over a lifetime.
- Finally, anyone is welcome to check my simple arithmetic calculations in this booklet, or the calculations and references in Brodsky (2011). Even professors who have taught or worked for decades in the sciences of radiation protection can make errors or oversights. Such checking will provide practice and experience in this safety subject matter, which

could be helpful in any actual radiological disaster. Any corrections would be gratefully received by the author.

**\*Comments:** I made a uranium standard in my kitchen in the late 1950s. As bad as I am in the kitchen, if I could make this comparison standard, anyone can. It would still be safe for anyone to do; the discussion of safety is included in Brodsky (2011) along with scientific literature references up to recent times. However, I doubt that many readers will bother making this standard, except perhaps some high school chemistry teachers. The procedure for making this standard is abstracted here from my book, because there might be those who want to avail themselves of food taken from their outside garden, and they might not want to wait for, or trust, scientists to come to check their food in time. **People can die of starvation or malnutrition if food or water is improperly denied to them by over-restrictive standards that do not take into account the special emergency situations.**

I would hope that some official from DHS might read this booklet and recommend manufacture and provide wide distribution for such comparison standards, and the affordable kinds of Geiger counters that could easily be used to check such samples. This would help provide ordinary citizens with an introduction to concepts of the possibilities of safety and survival in the event of releases of radioactive material from nuclear detonations or industrial accidents.

## **Appendix C – Reasons for Urgency in Family Preparations to Save Lives**

The following facts are quoted from Dr. Gary M. Sandquist, President of The American Civil Defense Association (TACD) (Sandquist 2013):

**“We live in a dangerous and frightening world. Syria has used chemical weapons (Saran gas – the same agent used in World War I) against its own people to maintain the Assad Dictatorship. Of greater concern to U.S. interests in the Middle East are the Iran officials (sic). It is apparent that they seek to develop nuclear weapons. It requires about 250 kilograms (550 pounds) of 20% enriched uranium to produce a simple “gun-barrel” nuclear weapon similar to that used in Hiroshima in 1945. The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) reported in August 2013 that Iran has 186 kilograms. Only another 64 kilograms will provide sufficient material for a single 20-kiloton nuclear weapon. The Iranians are adding an additional 3000 high-speed centrifuges with sufficient capacity to produce this additional enriched uranium in months.”**

Also, in an article by Karen DeYoung in The Washington Post, March 5, 2014, page A7, she quotes Prime Minister Netanyahu, who in this world along with our own President should be most concerned about Iran’s nuclear program, as follows:

**“But if you listen to their words, their soothing words, he said, “they don’t square with Iran’s aggressive action.” Iranian long-range missiles, he said “can strike now, or very soon, the Eastern Seaboard of the United States – Washington – and very soon after that, everywhere else in the United States.”**

Prime Minister Netanyahu’s words are consistent with what I have heard from other authoritative sources in the United States. This gives urgency to everyone in the USA to prepare protection for themselves and families, and to try to reach our leaders with the information here and in the further comments on the next page.

In a study of Israeli and Iranian nuclear facilities, and effects of an Israeli attack on the Iran facilities, it was estimated in 2009 that Iran could have nuclear bombs within about 5 years (Toukan and Cordesman (2009). It is now about six years, and we still do not have adequate access to inspect Iran’s facilities.

Also, Alvarez (2004) explains that any terrorist, even one unsophisticated in the science, can put together an improvised nuclear device (IND), really a nuclear bomb in the low kT range, if having access to some stolen uranium, in a matter of weeks. Such an IND could be carried into the USA by anyone slipping through our borders.

Yet, we are so concerned about our privacy that we fight the dedicated scientists at the National Security Agency (NSA) who only want to trace calls to detect any planned attacks that could cost our lives.

**Does all this worry you? It does me.**

Further comments regarding the urgency of attempting destruction of nuclear weapons, while still preparing supplies and shelters (March 2014)

*“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” Isaiah 2:4*

Hassan Rouhani, the new Iranian (President) handpicked by the Ayatollahs, appears to offer moderation in Iranian diplomacy with the U.S. Significantly, this same Rouhani was a key agent in the ill-fated arms-for-hostage meeting in Tehran 27 years ago and who said in a 2004 speech to the Iranian Revolution Council, “While we were talking to the Europeans in Tehran, we were installing equipment in parts of the (uranium) facilities in Isfahan.”

The world is in chaos around us. I encourage you to keep a watchful eye on current events while hastening your preparations.”

President Obama, in his State of the Union address on January 29, 2013, gave what seemed to be his assurance that nothing was “off the table” to prevent the Iranian mullahs from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Yet, negotiations are projected to take six months before an agreement is reached. Can we be sure that the Iranian leaders are not in the meantime completing their first atomic bomb, making it ready for delivery to our Capitol within the near future? Secretary Hagel said that the negotiations are “...worth the risk.” I do not agree, even if the risk is only 1% or very much less, if the event being risked is the complete destruction of our nation.

It is assumed that an attack on the Iranian facilities with low kiloton nuclear block blusters would start nuclear war. This is not so, because past experience with Israel’s earlier destruction of the Iraq and Syrian reactors prevented nuclear wars, and I have evidence that I have presented to certain leaders that low-kT nuclear blockbusters would not yield enough radioactive cloud or fallout exposure to hurt the good Iranian people, lest be of harm to anyone in other civilian neighborhoods (hint: see pages 100-101 of Brodsky (2011), which summarizes Brodsky and Reeves (2009)). Note that a 2 kT atomic bomb is equivalent to 2,000 tons of TNT and a ton is 2,000 pounds. Thus, a 2kT atomic (nuclear) bomb is equivalent to 4,000,000 tons of TNT. Such bombs in bunker busters can surely completely destroy any facilities underground. Many comments from congressmen and officials in the administration indicate our leaders do not understand that Iran’s nuclear facilities can be destroyed without harming Iran’s citizens or anyone else from radiation. Again, see pages 100-101 in my 2011 book, together with the information on radiation and hormetic effects summarized in this Handbook, and draw your own conclusions. The information on pages 100-101 summarizes an article by Brodsky and Reeves (2009), which interprets a formerly secret Soviet report to show that a bunker buster with a 1 to 5 kT atomic bomb could destroy underground nuclear facilities without harming any public beyond about 6 miles. (Remember that a 1 kT atomic bomb is equivalent to a 2,000,000 pound TNT bomb.) Take a look at this and try to get this information to your congressman and someone in the White House.

Current discussions in Congress (2014) indicate that many in Congress, as well as the majority of the public, have yet to understand the imminent threats to us all from the Middle East turmoil. To this author, nuclear weapons brought to us through our penetrable borders or on ships are the worst among the terrible threats to our survival. Today (March 10, 1954) it was pointed out on the news about two persons with fake passports being on the airplane that went down in Asia, and that one million travelers with fake passports board commercial aircraft each year. Thus, terrorists can



most easily enter our nation, and bring bombs into or near major centers of population. I have seen their devastation, and also worked in, and trained responders in, radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons of the sizes likely to be used by those who hate our values and ways of living. The Afterword, following this Appendix, describes how such survival of radiation effects is not only possible, but likely, for the vast majority of citizens, even from an atom bomb explosion more than a few miles away (Connor 2014). However, this booklet also will better ensure readiness to survive a variety of catastrophic events.

**Chemical and biological agents must be completely avoided by immediate sheltering and personal protection, if possible. Recommendations for sheltering in place at planned indoor locations will also reduce harm from these other agents. I believe that nuclear attack is the most likely the worst to occur by terrorist actions, and preparations for surviving them will also reduce harm from other agents and natural disasters.**

Further information on chemical and biological agents may be obtained by subscribing to the weekly newsletters by Dr. Glenn I. Reeves at his e-mail address: [greeves@ara.com](mailto:greeves@ara.com) . Dr. Greeves is a former radiation oncologist, who after retiring from medical practice has for a number of years consulted on effects of nuclear, biological, and chemical agents, and has collected an enormous amount of information on these agents, and also on breakouts of infectious diseases around the world.

The information on chemical and biological agents in this handbook is kept brief, because further protection against these agents than the simple measures suggested here do require action by medical professionals that are sponsored and funded by our national government.

## Afterword

### The Good News About Nuclear Destruction

by

Shane Connor, President, KI4U, Inc.

Author's comment: The material in this appendix is taken, with permission, from one of the helpful civil defense articles and pamphlets on the website of Shane Connor (Connor 2014). Shane is a businessman I knew from his ads for a number of years, but first met only a few years ago. He recognized the unfortunate decision of Congress and the President in the mid-1990s to cancel the civil defense program, as if the world had become entirely safe with the end of the "Cold War." We now know what a terribly wrong decision that was. Shane was alert and caring enough to buy as much of the civil defense equipment that he could, before it was destroyed, to make it available so those who might need it would be able to purchase it at reasonable prices. He is one of my heroes for his foresight and recognition of the need for citizen protection in this dangerous age. If any readers are disturbed that I am pushing a particular vendor's products, they may go to the long list of vendors, listed by products in my 2011 book. That list was taken from the website of the Health Physics Society, which is given in this handbook.

With tongue in cheek, Shane provides some insights about why civil defense in the USA has taken a back seat, but now requires urgent attention so that the most lives can be saved in the event of a nuclear disaster. His facts and views are consistent with mine, and will give the reader insights to why I wrote this handbook. The most recent appearance of Shane's Afterword is presented here as given on his website:.

#### KI4U, Inc. has been written up in ...

*NYTimes* (6/13/02), *Wall Street Journal* (3/14/03 & 10/5/01), *USAToday* (6/11/02 & 7/11/02), *Washington Post* (4/13/03 & 3/16/03), *Boston Globe* (8/13/05), *SF Chronicle* (6/23/02), *Newsday* (11/24/01), *WND* (1/18/05), *IEEE Spectrum* (9/01), *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (5/04), *National Defense Mag* (3/04). And, our products seen on CNN, FOX, CBS, TIME mag with radio interviews on 'Coast to Coast', NPR, Glenn Beck and numerous others, also Glenn Beck's CNN TV Show - 10/12/2006! ~ KHOU TV Interview - 5/1/2012! ~ Shipping Wars - 8/28/2012 ~ KTBC TV Interview - 1/31/2013

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## A. THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION!

By [Shane Connor](#)

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**Updated & expanded below 2/11/2014**

Originally published 8/24/2006 at WorldNetDaily

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What possible '*good news*' could there ever be about nuclear destruction coming to America, whether it is Dirty Bombs, Terrorist Nukes, or ICBM's from afar?

In a word, they are all survivable for the vast majority of American families, *IF* they know what to do beforehand and have made even the most modest of preparations.

Tragically, though, most Americans today won't give much credence to this *good news*, much less seek out such vital life-saving instruction, as they have been jaded by our culture's pervasive *myths of nuclear un-survivability*.

Most people think that if nukes go off then everybody is going to die, or it'll be so bad they'll wish they had. That's why you hear such absurd comments as; "*If it happens, I hope I'm at ground zero and go quickly.*"

This defeatist attitude was born as the disarmament movement ridiculed any competing alternatives to their ban-the-bomb agenda, like Civil Defense. The activists wanted all to think there was no surviving a nuke, banning them all was your only hope. The sound Civil Defense strategies of the 50-60's have been derided as being largely ineffective, or at worst a cruel joke. With the supposed end of the Cold War in the 80's, most Americans saw neither a need to prepare, nor believed that preparation would do any good. Today, with growing prospects of nuclear terrorism, and nuclear saber rattling from rogue nations, we see emerging among the public either paralyzing fear or irrational denial. People can't even begin to envision effective preparations for ever surviving a nuclear attack. They think it totally futile, bordering on lunacy, to even try.

Ironically, these disarmament activists, regardless their noble intent, have rendered millions of Americans even more vulnerable to perishing from nukes in the future.

The biggest surprise for most Americans, from the first flash of a nuke being unleashed, is that they will still be here, though ill-equipped to survive for long, if they don't know what to do beforehand from that first second of the flash onward.

Most could easily survive the initial blasts because they won't be close enough to any "ground zero", and that is very *good news*. Unfortunately, though, few people will be prepared to next survive the later coming radioactive fallout which could eventually kill many times more than the

blast. However, there is still more *good news* possible, as well over 90% of those potential casualties from fallout can be avoided, *IF* the public was pre-trained through an aggressive national Civil Defense educational program. Simple measures taken immediately after a nuclear blast, by a pre-trained public, can prevent agonizing death and injury from radiation exposure.

The National Planning Scenario #1, an originally confidential internal 2004 study by the Department of Homeland Security, demonstrated the above survival odds when they examined the effects of a terrorist nuke going off in Washington, D.C.. They discovered that a 10 kiloton nuke, about 2/3rds the size of the Hiroshima bomb, detonated at ground level, would result in about 15,000 immediate deaths, and another 15,000 casualties from the blast, thermal flash and initial radiation release. As horrific as that is, the surprising revelation here is that over 99% of the residents in the DC area will have just witnessed and survived their first nuclear explosion. Clearly, the *good news* is most people will survive the initial blast.

However, that study also soberly determined that as many as another 250,000 people could soon be at risk from lethal doses of radiation from the fallout drifting downwind towards them after the blast. (Another study, released in August 2006 by the Rand Corporation, looked at a terrorist 10 kiloton nuke arriving in a cargo container and being exploded in the Port of Long Beach, California. Over 150,000 people were estimated to be at risk downwind from fallout, again many more than from the initial blast itself.)

The *good news*, that these much larger casualty numbers from radioactive fallout are largely avoidable, only applies to those pre-trained beforehand by a Civil Defense program in what to do before it arrives.

Today, lacking any meaningful Civil Defense program, millions of American families continue to be at risk and could perish needlessly for lack of essential knowledge that used to be taught at the grade school level.

The public, and especially our children, urgently need to be instructed in Civil Defense basics again. Like how most can save themselves by employing the old '*Duck & Cover*' tactic, rather than just impulsively rushing to the nearest window to see what that '*big flash*' was across town just-in-time to be shredded by the glass imploding inwards from the delayed blast wave.

*"According to the 1946 book Hiroshima, in the days between the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings in Japan, one Hiroshima policeman went to Nagasaki to teach police about ducking after the atomic flash. As a result of this timely warning, not a single Nagasaki policeman died in the initial blast. Unfortunately, the general population was not warned of the heat/blast danger following an atomic flash because of the bomb's unknown nature. Many people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki died while searching the skies for the source of the brilliant flash."*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duck\\_and\\_cover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duck_and_cover)

Even in the open, just lying flat, reduces by eight-fold the chances of being hit by debris from that brief, three second, tornado strength blast that, like lightning & thunder, could be delayed arriving anywhere from a fraction of a second to 20 seconds or more after that initial flash.

They need to also know if in the path far downwind of fallout coming, that evacuating perpendicular to that downwind drift of the fallout would be their best strategy. They must also be taught, if they can't evacuate in time, how to shelter-in-place while the radioactive fallout loses 90% of it's lethal intensity in the first seven hours and 99% of it in two days. For those requiring sheltering from fallout, the majority would only need two or three days of full-time hunkering down, not weeks on end, before safely joining the evacuation.

This *good news* is easily grasped by most people, and an effective expedient fallout shelter can be improvised at home, school or work quickly, but only *IF* the public had been trained beforehand, as was begun in the 50's & 60's with our national Civil Defense program.

Unfortunately, our government today is doing little to promote nuclear preparedness and Civil Defense instruction among the general public. Regrettably, most of our politicians, like the public, are still captive to the same illusions that training and preparation of the public are ineffective and futile against a nuclear threat.

The past administrations Department of Homeland Security head, Michael Chertoff, demonstrated this attitude in 2005 when he responded to the following question in USA Today;

*Q: In the last four years, the most horrific scenario - a nuclear attack - may be the least discussed. If there were to be a nuclear attack tomorrow by terrorists on an American city, how would it be handled?*

*A: In the area of a nuclear bomb, it's prevention, prevention, prevention. If a nuclear bomb goes off, you are not going to be able to protect against it. There's no city strong enough infrastructure-wise to withstand such a hit. No matter how you approach it, there'd be a huge loss of life.*

Mr. Chertoff failed to grasp that most of that "*huge loss of life*" could be avoided if those in the blast zone and downwind knew what to do beforehand. He only acknowledges that the infrastructure will be severely compromised -- too few first-responders responding. Civil Defense pre-training of the public is clearly the only hope for those in the blast zone and later in the fallout path. Of course, the government should try and prevent it happening first, but the answer he should have given to that question is; "*preparation, preparation, preparation*" of the public via training beforehand, for when prevention by the government might fail.

The current Obama administration also fails to grasp that the single greatest force multiplier to reducing potential casualties, and greatly enhancing the effectiveness of first-responders, is a pre-trained public so that there will be far fewer casualties to later deal with. Spending millions to train and equip first-responders is good and necessary, but having millions fewer victims, by having also educated and trained the public beforehand, would be many magnitudes more effective in saving lives.

The federal government needs to launch a national mass media, business supported, and school based effort, superseding our most ambitious public awareness campaigns like for AIDs, drug abuse, drunk driving, anti-smoking, etc. The effort should percolate down to every level of our society. Let's be clear - we are talking about the potential to save, or lose needlessly, many times more lives than those saved by all these other noble efforts combined!

Instead, Homeland Security continues with a focus primarily on...

#1 - Interdiction - Catching nuclear materials and terrorists beforehand and...

#2 - COG - Continuity of Government and casualty response afterward for when #1 fails

While the vital key component continues to be largely ignored...

#3 - Continuity of the Public while it's happening - via proven mass media Civil Defense training beforehand that would make the survival difference then for the vast majority of Americans affected by a nuclear event and on their own from that first initial flash & blast and through that critical first couple days of the highest radiation threat, before government response has arrived in force.

This deadly oversight will persist until those crippling *myths of nuclear un-survivability* are banished by the *good news* that a trained and prepared public can, and ultimately has to, save themselves. More training of the public beforehand means less body bags required afterwards, it's that simple.

The tragic After Action Reports (AAR's), of an American city nuked today, would glaringly reveal then that the overwhelming majority of victims had perished needlessly for lack of this basic, easy to learn & employ, life-saving knowledge.

Re-launching Civil Defense training is an issue we hope & pray will come to the forefront on the political stage, with both parties vying to outdo each other proposing national Civil Defense public educational programs. We are not asking billions for provisioned public fallout shelters for all, like what already awaits many of our politicians. We are just asking for a comprehensive mass media, business, and school based re-release of the proven practical strategies of Civil Defense instruction, a modernized version of what we used to have here, and that had been embraced by the Chinese, Russians, Swiss, and Israeli's.

There is no greater, nor more legitimate, primary responsibility of any government than to protect its citizens. And, no greater condemnation awaits that government that fails to, risking millions then perishing needlessly. We all need to demand renewed public Civil Defense training and the media needs to spotlight it questioning officials and politicians, until the

government corrects this easily avoidable, but fatal vulnerability.

In the meantime, though, don't wait around for the government to instruct and prepare your own family and community. Educate yourself today and begin establishing your own family nuclear survival preparations by reading the free nuke prep primer...

[What To Do If A Nuclear Disaster Is Imminent!](http://www.ki4u.com/guide.htm) at [www.ki4u.com/guide.htm](http://www.ki4u.com/guide.htm)

Then, pass copies of it, along with this article, to friends, neighbors, relatives, fellow workers, churches and community organizations with a brief note attached saying simply: *"We hope/pray we never need this, but just-in-case, keep it handy!"* Few nowadays will find that approach alarmist and you'll be pleasantly surprised at how many are truly grateful.

Everyone should also forward copies of both to their local, state and federal elected representatives, as well as your own communities first-responders and local media, all to help spread this *good news* that's liberating American families from their paralyzing and potentially fatal *myths of nuclear un-survivability!*

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[See the Only County In U.S. that's re-established their Civil Defense Fallout Shelters!](#) ...and... [How To Do It In Your Own Community, too!](#)

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Shane Connor is the CEO of [www.ki4u.com](http://www.ki4u.com).  
Consultants and developers of Civil Defense solutions to Government, NPO's  
and Individual Families.



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Connor (2014): Shane Connor, CEO, KI4U, Inc., <http://www.ki4u.com> and <http://www.nukalert.com>. Consultants and developers of civil defense solutions to government, military, private organizations, and families. Connor’s web site also provides historic literature on the effects of nuclear weapons, and a description of the Kearney meter, which can be assembled at home by any citizen and studied to better understand how collection of electric charges are used to measure gamma, beta, and alpha radiations.

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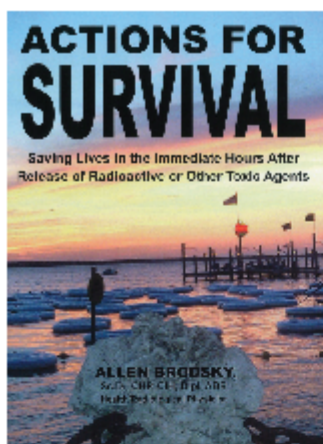
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## NECESSARY READING FOR RESPONDERS AND CITIZENS

# Actions for Survival

*Saving Lives in the Immediate Hours  
After Release of Radioactive or  
Other Toxic Agents*

Allen Brodsky

373 pages, 50 Exhibits, Notes, Bibliography

\$44.95 Suggested Retail Price (See sale price below)

This book provides the rationale for, and necessary life-saving information for, preparing the general member of the public for personal and family survival. It also gives recommendations for "top leaders" of government agencies and emergency response organizations to enhance their abilities to protect the public or reduce effects from weapons of mass destruction or effluents from nuclear or chemical accidents. The emphasis in this book is to provide the simplest information and rules of thumb for early actions in the seconds, minutes, and early hours after an attack, before the limited number of scientists are able to assess extents of damage and exposure, and before the limited number of responders will be able to assist individual families and members of the public. The book also explains how the public has been subjected to exaggerations of low-level exposures, provides information on radiation risks versus dose, and recommends public education that would prevent unwarranted panic in the vast areas that might be contaminated at lower levels that do not pose significant risks. Early projections of risks of radiation from the Japanese Fukushima nuclear reactors are included. The book is divided into the following chapter and appendix headings:

Chapter 1 - An Unpleasant Truth  
Chapter 2 - Why Prepare Yourself for Personal and Family Protection  
Chapter 3 - A Few New Words to Remember  
Chapter 4 - Some Basic Information About Radiation Risks  
Chapter 5 - Basic Information about WMD That Can Save Life  
Chapter 6 - Actions for Those Who Do Not Want to Bother with Much Preparation  
Chapter 7 - Additional Preparations Before an Attack That Would Reduce Risks  
Chapter 8 - The Importance of Wearing Self-Reading Pocket Exposure Monitors (or "Pocket Dosimeters")  
Chapter 9 - Summary of Life Saving Actions for Laymen and Leaders  
Appendix A - More Word Definitions and Concepts for Further Reading  
Appendix B - A Reprint of Presentations Given in Early Civil Defense Training

Appendix C - Poster: Actions That You, The Public, Can Take for Protection in a Terrorist Attack  
Appendix D - A Sample of Ted Rockwell's Socratic Answers to Radiation Myths  
Appendix E - Summary of Problems with the New SI Units in Regard to USA Homeland Security  
Appendix F - List of Companies Selling Instruments and Protective Equipment Which Can Be Helpful in Personal Preparations  
Appendix G - Copies of Purchasing and Specification Information for Self-Indicating Colorimetric Personal Monitors  
Appendix H - Department of Homeland Security Planning Guidance  
Appendix I - Late Breaking News  
Afterwords  
References  
About the Author

Allen Brodsky, Sc.D., CHP, CIH, DABR, educated with a B.S. in chemical engineering, an AEC-NRC Fellowship in Radiological Physics at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a master's in physics, and a doctorate in biostatistics and radiation health, is certified by the American Boards of Health Physics, Industrial Hygiene, and Radiology (Therapeutic Physics). In addition to experience establishing radiation safety programs at the Naval Research Laboratory and several universities, writing regulations and radiation safety guides for two Federal agencies, developing radiation treatments for cancer patients, and conducting radiation measurements and radioepidemiologic studies, he has taught radiation sciences, and biostatistics and epidemiology, and been a mentor to over 150 graduate students at three universities. Of special pertinence to this book is his unique combination of experiences as a scientist measuring prompt radiations at the first three hydrogen bomb tests in the Pacific; as a physicist at the Federal Civil Defense Administration establishing training programs for responders and civil defense authorities; as trainer of responders in fallout exercises at nuclear tests in the Nevada Test Site; as a negotiator for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in 1957 of the first joint AEC-DOD operations center for responding to radiation accidents; as a professor and Technical Director of Radiation Medicine managing and evaluating patients exposed to external radiation and internal deposition of plutonium, americium, and fission products in the early growth industries in Pittsburgh in the 1960's; and as the first Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homeland Security of the Health Physics Society in 2001-2002. In addition to his journal articles and many documents published for the government, this is his eighth book, providing data and methods for measuring or estimating internal and external exposures, and avoiding health risks, under emergency or routine conditions. He is a founding member of the Health Physics Society and two of its chapters. Among his awards for contributions to teaching, research and radiation safety practice are the Robley Evans Medal of the Health Physics Society, the Radiation Science and Technology Award of the American Nuclear Society, the Vicennial Medal of Georgetown University, and the Distinguished Graduate Award of the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh.

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