Discovering an Incident: How do you know a radiation incident has occurred?

- Is it a radiological or nuclear incident?

How do you know a radiation incident has occurred?

- Obvious in Real Time
  - Information from local, State, Federal authorities
  - News report
  - Routine, real time radiation monitoring of
    - Industrial radiation sources
    - Planned transport of radiation sources
    - Medical facility radiation sources
  - Personal observation

- Not Obvious in Real Time
  - Evaluating an explosive incident, HAZMAT team tests for and finds radiation.
  - Monitoring of water, soil, food, air reveals unexpected radiation.
  - Recognizing over time a cluster of victims with radiation-linked clinical signs and symptoms
  - Locating a radiation source outside of expected places, e.g., subway, sports field

- Examples
  - Nuclear explosion
  - Transportation incident
  - Medical facility incident
  - Nuclear power plant / reactor incident or sabotage
  - Industrial radiation source incident

- Examples
  - Radiological Dispersal Device
    - Explosive incident subsequently found to have radiation
    - Non-explosive incident: radiation dispersion into food, water, soil, air
    - Hidden radiological source: Radiological Exposure Device
    - Malicious or unintentional industrial, nuclear reactor, medical facility, or transportation incident discovered after the fact

More Details...

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