Summary and Recommendations

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“ALARA in Emergency Exposure Situations”
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Workshop on ALARA in emergency situations

• Why?
  – ICRP and BSS emphasis to apply ALARA in emergency situation and post-accident situations
  – reexamine the challenges in applying the ALARA principle, taking the lessons learned from Fukushima into account

• Context
  – ICRP, discussion on acceptability of risk
  – IRPA discussion on reasonableness
  – Collaboration with NERIS
Objectives of the Workshop

• To show, in particular from the experience of Fukushima accident, the challenges posed by the optimisation of exposures in emergency and post-accident situations

• To review the national arrangements for assessing, monitoring and mitigating the radiological consequences of an emergency, especially with regard to applying the ALARA principle to public and occupational exposures

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Objectives of the Workshop

- To review the arrangements for managing emergency doses to workers
- To review the arrangements for providing ALARA-based training for the different types of stakeholders who would be engaged in the emergency response and long-term recovery actions
- To bring together stakeholders
  - to exchange practical ideas and experience
  - to identify further improvements
  - to produce recommendations

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WG1 - Can the ALARA principle be fully applied in Emergency Exposure Situations for the members of the public

WG2 - Can the ALARA principle be fully applied in Emergency Exposure Situations for the occupationally involved individuals?

WG3a and WG3b - Predict the unpredictable!? How to ensure that emergency plans are optimal from a radiation protection point of view?
Report back from Working Groups

Oral Presentations and discussions
Summary of topics and themes

- IAEA, ICRP, WHO, EC
- Justification, optimisation and stakeholder involvement are key factors but their individual importance varies with time (stage of emergency) and prevailing circumstances
- Which circumstances have most influence on decision making?
- Emphasis on these factors will evolve
- Tools for decision making – OILs, Reference Levels, modelling and monitoring
2. Mitigating measures

- National arrangements – protection strategies
- Protective measures/countermeasures
- Early/late measures
- Aim to protect – not driven by fear of criticism
- To obtain the ‘best’ outcome – most reasonable taking into account societal/economic factors
- Flexibility of strategy/planning
  - Avoid linear planning
  - Improve resilience of emergency plans
3. Reference Levels

- A tool for:
  - selecting and assessing protection strategies
  - driving optimisation of residual dose and restricting dose to individuals
  - Enable flexibility and adaptation to a changing situation
  - Poorly understood and applied
4. Dose assessment and monitoring

- Preparedness and predictions
  - Enable preparation of protection strategy
  - Uncertainties in dose modelling and assessment
  - Protective measures

- Real time measurements
  - Characterisation of source term/modelling
  - Personal dose monitoring
  - Environmental sampling
4. Dose assessment contd)

- Forecasting….future predictions

- The issue of conservatism – application of protective measures, impact on lifting of protective measures i.e. food restrictions, return to home
  - Reducing uncertainties
5. Stakeholders

- Preparedness / pre-accident
  - Identification of key stakeholders
  - Education of risk
  - Involvement and engagement
  - Policy makers (lessons learned – be proactive)
5. Stakeholders contd)

- Accident phase
  - Compliance with protective measures
  - Workers/responders – ongoing involvement

- Recovery phase
  - Education, training tools
  - Self-sufficient to management own needs
6. RP Culture, information and training

• Establish a uniform knowledge base to aid communication, interpretation and understanding, build trust and security
• Enable workers to make informed choices
  – Specific groups may need additional information
• Increase RP culture in peacetime
• Reference Levels as a tool for planning – expect revisions
• Expectations in relation to protective actions
  – Recovery – implies a return to original state
6. RP Culture, information and training contd)

- Channels for dissemination of information
  - Website (Q&A)
  - Social media
- Engagement with experts in social sciences/humanities

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Initial Recommendations

• All relevant workers to be identified as radiation workers with clear guidance and monitoring provided for comparison to relevant reference level

• For all workers optimisation to be driven towards a dose limit of 20 mSv in the late phase

• Protection measures should be applied to the population collectively although differentiation may be needed for specific exposed groups (age, habits, diet)
Initial Recommendations

- Further guidance/advice needed for the justification of countermeasures ie evacuation
- Arrangements for advance distribution of iodine prophylaxis due to small time window for administration
Initial Recommendations

• Where a largescale accident has implications outside of borders, there should be co-operation and co-ordination between neighbouring countries to ensure timely action and equitable outcomes
  • Incorporation into protection strategy
  • Harmonisation of information to stakeholders
Initial Recommendations

- Radiation protection awareness and training for wide variety of stakeholders in peacetime – with suitable provision for ad-hoc, update training during emergency
- Emergency plans/arrangements to be exercised with emphasis not only on procedures but also suitability of equipment to help drive optimisation at preparedness stage

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Future Work

• Consideration of ALARA in relation to transport accidents, accidents involving high activity industrial and hospital sources, malicious uses of radioactive materials, and other events
  • Security of radioactive material / sources

• Development of information and training resources, decision support centres for advice during emergencies
Thanks to

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Thank you for your participation

Feedback request will be sent