

Will I be compensated for economic loss?

A radiological emergency may lead to additional living expenses, loss of farm or business income, or physical or property damages in areas affected by the event. The federal government requires that nuclear facilities contribute to an insurance fund that would be available to compensate the public for economic loss caused by a significant radiological emergency event.

If such an emergency event did occur, announcements would be made on types of assistance programs that would be available and procedures for obtaining assistance or filing a claim for damages or loss.

Learn more

- Visit agr.wa.gov and search for “radiation emergencies”
- Visit www.energy-northwest.com
- Contact the emergency management program in the following counties: Adams, Benton, Franklin, Grant, Walla Walla, or Yakima



Preparing for a radiological emergency in Washington State

Is there a risk near a nuclear facility?

Nuclear facilities are designed to operate safely and have safety features built in to protect the public in the unlikely event of an emergency. However, it is possible that an emergency event could be serious enough to result in a release of radioactive materials outside of the facility's borders.

What happens if an emergency occurs?

In the event of a radiological emergency at a nuclear facility, emergency managers will identify potentially impacted areas and provide actions that people in those areas can take to protect their family, employees, pets, livestock, and property.

People located within 10 miles of the nuclear facility would be closest to the site and therefore at highest risk of potential radiological exposure will be notified by:

- Sirens
- Radio station broadcasts
- Television station broadcasts
- Emergency Alert System messages
- CodeRED mobile alerts (for those who have signed up) including
 - Phone calls
 - SMS (text messages)

People located in areas 10 to 50 miles from the nuclear facility are primarily informed through radio stations in the event that the emergency affected their area.

People should always follow the direction of local officials if an emergency event occurs.

What is radiation?

Radiation, a form of radiant energy, is invisible, tasteless and odorless. We are constantly exposed to sources of radiation. Radiation comes from sunlight, water, soil and the materials we use to build our homes. Radiation also comes from sources such as medical and dental x-rays, and smoke detectors.



What do I need to do if there is a radiological emergency?

In the unlikely event of radioactive material release that could result in the contamination of foods, food products, or water, state and local officials will advise the public on actions they should take to protect themselves and mitigate the potential contamination of food and water.

Here are actions you can take if a radiological emergency occurs, but keep in mind that **if you are asked to evacuate an area, you should leave immediately without stopping to care for animals, farms, or gardens.**

- Provide shelter for livestock and pets.
- Cover feed and open water sources, such as water troughs.
- Do not harvest, eat, share, or sell any fresh produce or animal products.
- Do not drink milk produced since the start of the emergency.
(Milk processed and offered for sale before the emergency is safe.)



If a radiological emergency occurs, officials will take action to prevent the entry of contaminated food into the food supply. You should:

- Stop harvesting. Produce picked before an emergency occurs should be placed in an enclosed storage area.
- Do not market or transport animals or animal products until official announcement has been made that your location is free of contamination.
- Do not process or distribute fruits or vegetables until they have been officially declared free of contamination.
- Wash, scrub, or peel fresh fruits and vegetables obtained. Do not eat fruits or vegetables from your garden until your location has been officially declared free of contamination.
- Do not move or harvest beehives in impacted areas. They will be sampled and tested for possible contamination by officials and released if free of contamination.