

Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program

Emergency Responder Radioactive Material Quick Reference Sheet

Initial Response/Scene Size Up

From a distance, try to identify the following:

- Spills, leaks, or fire
- Victims needing rescue
- Type of vehicle and containers involved
- Placards, labels, or package markings
- Container/package damage
- Any person knowledgeable of the scene
- Location of shipping papers
- Proper protective clothing needed for entry

For radioactive materials, establish an **initial isolation zone of 75 feet** in all directions. Priorities for rescue, life-saving, first aid, fire control and other hazards are higher than the priority for measuring radiation levels. Attempt to detain uninjured personnel who may be contaminated until they can be surveyed by local Radiation Authority.

Vehicle Placards

Standard Placard



Vehicle placarding is required when transporting:

- Packages with Yellow-III labels
- Exclusive-Use LSA/SCO shipments
- Highway Route Controlled Quantity Shipments

Highway Route Controlled Quantity (HRCQ) Placard



HRCQ is a high activity shipment transported in a Type B package. The package will always have a Yellow-III label regardless of radiation level. HRCQ shipments by highway will require the standard placard on a white square background with a black border as shown at left.



Package Labels

Radioactive White-I

Expect up to 0.5 mrem/hr at surface of package

No Transport Index associated with this label



Radioactive Yellow-II

Expect > 0.5 mrem/hr up to 50 mrem/hr at surface of package

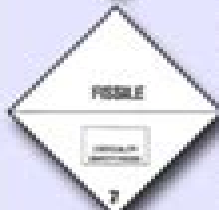
Maximum Transport Index is 1 or 1 mrem/hr at 1 meter



Radioactive Yellow-III

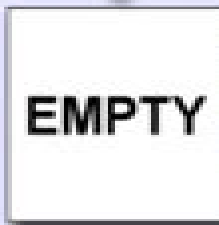
Expect > 50 mrem/hr up to 200 mrem/hr* at surface of package

Maximum Transport Index is 10 or 10 mrem/hr at 1 meter*



Fissile Label

For packages containing fissile material, this label will appear with one of the three labels shown above. Criticality Safety Index on label is used by shipper to limit the number of packages on a conveyance



EMPTY Label

For packages that previously contained radioactive material. Package may still contain internal contamination

* May read up to 1,000 mrem/hr at package surface and up to 10 mrem/hr at 2 meters (6.6 feet) if package is transported in a closed transport vehicle under exclusive use provisions. Shipping papers will denote "Exclusive Use."

Shipping Paper Information

Look for the following information on shipping papers for radioactive material:

- Emergency contact telephone number
- Proper Shipping Name and UN ID
- Name of radionuclides (e.g., Cs-137)
- Radioactivity level per package in MBq, GBq, etc. (will be listed as "activity")
- Category of label applied (i.e., White-I, Yellow-II, Yellow-III)
- Transport Index (for Yellow-II and III labels)
- The letters "RQ" if material is a Reportable Quantity of hazardous material
- Package Type (e.g., Type A, Type B, etc.)
- Physical & chemical form of material (if not special form)
- "Fissile Excepted" or Criticality Safety Index (for fissile materials only)
- "Exclusive Use" if shipment is being made under exclusive use provisions
- Highway Route Controlled Quantity or "HRCQ" (if shipment is HRCQ)

Common Prefixes

The activity level shown on shipping papers and on the radioactive label is required to be listed in **becquerel**. The becquerel (Bq) is a very small amount of activity. To account for this, prefixes are often used to change the size of the unit. For example 2.2 MBq denotes 2.2 million Bq or 2.2 million disintegrations per second. Many of the commonly used prefixes are shown in the table below.

Symbol	Prefix Value
k	kilo - 1 thousand
M	Mega - 1 million
G	Giga - 1 billion
T	Tera - 1 trillion
P	Peta - 1 quadrillion

First Responder Reference Guide

M Walker



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Table of Contents First Responder Reference Guide

1. Understanding the eBook First Responder Reference Guide
 - The Rise of Digital Reading First Responder Reference Guide
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying First Responder Reference Guide
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an First Responder Reference Guide
 - User-Friendly Interface

4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from First Responder Reference Guide
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - First Responder Reference Guide User Reviews and Ratings
 - First Responder Reference Guide and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing First Responder Reference Guide Free and Paid eBooks
 - First Responder Reference Guide Public Domain eBooks
 - First Responder Reference Guide eBook Subscription Services
 - First Responder Reference Guide Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating First Responder Reference Guide eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - First Responder Reference Guide Compatibility with Devices
 - First Responder Reference Guide Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of First Responder Reference Guide
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking First Responder Reference Guide
 - Interactive Elements First Responder Reference Guide
8. Staying Engaged with First Responder Reference Guide
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers First Responder Reference Guide
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books First Responder Reference Guide
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection First Responder Reference Guide
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine First Responder Reference Guide
 - Setting Reading Goals First Responder Reference Guide
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time

12. Sourcing Reliable Information of First Responder Reference Guide
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of First Responder Reference Guide
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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