

# Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan

## Objective

The objective of the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) is to establish an organized and integrated capability for timely, coordinated response by Federal agencies to peacetime radiological emergencies.

The FRERP provides the Federal Government's concept of operations based on specific authorities for responding to radiological emergencies, outlines Federal policies and planning considerations on which the concept of operations of this Plan and Federal agency specific response plans are based, and specifies authorities and responsibilities of each Federal agency that may have a significant role in such emergencies.

## Structure

The plan contains two sections, the first including background, considerations, and scope, and the second describing the concept of operations for response.

## Responsibility

The following Federal agencies have responsibilities and/or capabilities that pertain to various types of radiological emergencies:

- Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- Department of Commerce (DOC);
- Department of Energy (DOE);
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS);
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD);
- Department of the Interior (DOI);
- Department of Justice (DOJ);
- Department of State (DOS);
- Department of Transportation (DOT);
- Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA);
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- General Services Administration (GSA);
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA);
- National Communications System (NCS); and
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

In situations where a Federal agency owns, authorizes, regulates, or is otherwise deemed responsible for the facility or radiological activity causing the emergency and has authority to conduct and manage Federal actions onsite, that agency normally will be the Lead Federal Agency (LFA).

Table 1 identifies LFAs for different emergency scenarios.

Table 1: Identification of Lead Federal Agency for Radiological Emergencies

Type of Emergency	Lead Federal Agency
1. Nuclear Facility:	
a. Licensed by NRC or an Agreement State	NRC
b. Owned or Operated by DOD or DOE	DOD or DOE
c. Not Licensed, Owned, or Operated by a Federal Agency or an Agreement State	EPA
2. Transportation of Radioactive Materials:	
a. Shipment of Materials Licensed by NRC or an NRC Agreement State	NRC
b. Materials Shipped by or for DOD or DOE	DOD or DOE
c. Shipment of Materials Not Licensed or Owned by a Federal Agency or an Agreement State	EPA
3. Satellites Containing Radioactive Materials	NASA or DOD
4. Impact from Foreign or Unknown Source	EPA
5. Other Types of Emergencies	LFAs confer


## Scope

The scope of the FRERP encompasses any peacetime radiological emergency that has actual, potential, or perceived radiological consequences within the United States, its territories, possessions, or territorial waters, and that could require a response by the Federal Government. The level of the Federal response to a specific emergency will be based on the type and/or amount of radioactive material involved, the location of the emergency, the impact or the potential for impact on the public and environment, and the size of the affected area. The scope also includes emergencies occurring at fixed nuclear facilities or during the transportation of radioactive materials, including nuclear weapons, regardless of whether the facility or radioactive materials are publicly or privately owned, Federally regulated, regulated by an Agreement State, or not regulated at all.

## Considerations

The Plan contains the following considerations:

- **Public and Private Sector Response**—Defines the primary responsibilities under the Plan for state and local governments, owners and operators of facilities, and in cases where the site is under Federal control.
- **Coordination by Federal Agencies**—Provides guidelines for Federal, state, and local authorities to effectively integrate actions, including response activities on-scene, public information activities, Congressional relations, and guidelines for notification.

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- Federal Agency Authorities—Includes legislative and executive authorities allocated to Federal agencies that dictate a response, with or without a state request, when situations affect public health and safety.
  - Federal Agency Resource Commitments—Duration of the commitment is dictated by the nature and extent of the emergency, and the state and local resources available.
  - Requests for Federal Assistance—Directs state and local governments and radiological facility owners and operators to the proper agency for requests.
  - Reimbursement—Informs supporting agencies that any costs incurred during emergency response are internal responsibilities.