Hurricane Preparation & Response

Monitoring the Security of Radioactive Materials
Hurricane Preparation & Response

2017 Hurricane Season Storm Tracks

The 2017 Hurricane Season – 17 named storms. (source: National Hurricane Center)
Hurricane Preparation & Response

- Review Policy in early May each year
- Collect mailing list of target region
- Collect corresponding physical location list of licensed sites
- Update letter to licensees requesting alternate emergency contact information
- Mail letter to the main sites requesting a response containing contact information

Hurricane Season: June - November
Hurricane Preparation & Response

- A spreadsheet is prepared to record the alternate emergency contact information provided by the licensees.
- Use previous year’s spreadsheet as a template.
- Update the current year’s spreadsheet with new information provided by the licensee.
- Contact licensees that fail to respond.

Hurricane Harvey in Texas 8/25/2017

8/15/2018
Letters were sent to licensees authorized for category 1 or 2 quantities, with licensed sites in these counties along the Texas Gulf Coast.
The letter provides specific phone numbers and an email address, and requests notifications during the event to report any issues involving the inability to maintain the required security of the radioactive material, and to request assistance.

The 24-hour radiological emergency phone number is used to report reportable events.
Hurricane Preparation & Response

- Harvey made landfall Friday evening, August 25, 2017
- Communications regarding the status of the radioactive materials began August 27, 2017.
- Confirmation that all sites were secure confirmed by the licensees as of September 6, 2017.
254 sites were monitored during Harvey.

Site status checks and updates were typically made by telephone conversation, with some updates by email.

Four sites were visited by an inspector when the licensee was unable to reach the site, or the licensee’s staff were unable to leave their home, or were evacuated due to flooding.

Harvey Rainfall Totals at 7 AM, 8/30/2017
Hurricane Preparation & Response

Reports of potential damage requiring manufacturer-provided cleaning, maintenance, and the possibility for recommendations of disposal, were received for fixed gauges & industrial radiography devices.

Arkema Plant Site, Crosby, Texas, August 2017
Contacts and Documents

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Monitoring the Security of Radioactive Material in a Declared Emergency

The National Hurricane Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration defines the hurricane season for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as beginning June 1st and ending November 30th. Prior to the beginning of the hurricane season, year the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) asks that all states and localities review their plans for handling a declared emergency.

In the event of a declared emergency, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Notification of DSHS
2. Coordination with local authorities
3. Communication with affected communities

For more information, please contact Robert Free at 737-218-7082 or eric.skotak@dshs.texas.gov.

24 Hour Radiological Emergency Assistance

TELEPHONE NUMBER
512 458 7460

Use for Reporting Incidents, Emergencies, and Significant Events involving the Texas Nuclear Regulatory or "Catastrophic" Radiological Material Licensees.

For non-emergencies or questions, please call 512-458-8779.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS LICENSING PROGRAM
512-458-7460

8/15/2018
Thank you

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