



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

UK Recovery Handbooks for Radiation Incidents 2015

Version 4

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

Public Health England
133–155 Waterloo Road
Wellington House
London SE1 8UG
T: 020 7654 8000

www.gov.uk/phe

Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

© Crown copyright 2015

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit [OGL](#) or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to

Press and Information
Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards
Public Health England
Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0RQ
E: ChiltonInformationOffice@phe.gov.uk

Published June 2015

PHE publications gateway number: 2015067

UK Recovery Handbooks for Radiation Incidents 2015

Version 4

A Nisbet, S Watson and J Brown

Abstract

The UK Recovery Handbooks for Radiation Incidents have been developed to assist in the management of contaminated food production systems, inhabited areas and drinking water supplies following a radiation incident. The three handbooks have been developed in conjunction with a wide range of expert stakeholders.

The handbooks are user-friendly guidance documents, specifically designed to aid the decision-making process for developing and implementing a recovery strategy in the aftermath of a radiation incident. They are aimed at national and local authorities, central government departments and agencies, radiation and health protection experts, emergency services, industry and others who may be involved in the recovery from a radiation incident.

The handbooks are divided into several independent sections comprising: supporting scientific and technical information; an analysis of the factors influencing recovery; compendia of comprehensive state-of-the-art datasheets for 78 management options; guidance on planning in advance of an incident; decision-aiding frameworks for each environment, decision trees; look-up tables; and several worked examples. Sources of contamination considered in the handbooks include nuclear accidents and radiological dispersion devices.

The handbooks can be used as a preparatory tool, under non-crisis conditions, to engage stakeholders and to develop local and regional plans. They can be applied as part of the decision-aiding process to develop a recovery strategy following an incident. In addition, the handbooks may be useful for training purposes and during emergency exercises.

This study was funded by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Food Standards Agency, Government Decontamination Service and Department for Transport

**Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards
Public Health England
Chilton, Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 0RQ**

**Approval: May 2015
Publication: June 2015
ISBN 978-0-85951-767-6**

This report from the PHE Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards reflects understanding and evaluation of the current scientific evidence as presented and referenced in this document.
