UK Recovery Handbooks for Radiation Incidents 2015

Version 4
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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.