



Public Health  
England



# Chemical and Radiation Recovery Decision Support Tool



# Project overview

The main goal of the Chemical and Radiation Recovery Decision Support Tool Project (C&R DST) is to facilitate and guide users through the process of tailoring their recovery strategy when responding to any given incident. The C&R DST is being developed to accompany current guidance and advice, specifically the UK Recovery Handbooks for Radiation Incidents (2009, v3) and the UK Recovery Handbook for Chemical Incidents (2012, v1) available at [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe). The C&R DST is being developed for use by anyone that may be involved in developing a recovery strategy, for example: central government departments and agencies and inspectorates; local authorities; emergency response personnel (Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance); and other stakeholders.

The C&R DST project is led by Public Health England in collaboration with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Food Standards Agency, the Department for Transport and the Government Decontamination Service.

It is envisaged that the C&R DST will help direct the user through the steps in developing a recovery strategy for the remediation of a chemical or radiation incident, and enable the user to more easily identify and evaluate different options for clean-up, recovery and restoration of a contaminated environment after an incident.

## Specific objectives of the project

- make the recovery option selection process more efficient and user friendly by using standard templates within a linked framework (Decision Support Tool)
- provide a framework that clearly documents all parameters, assumptions and the data used to reach the decision on the recovery strategy
- facilitate reproducible and transparent decision-making, recording decisions made on why recovery options have been selected (auditable decisions trail)
- use software that is freely available (via the internet) compatible with computers or other web-enabled devices



# Methodology

The C&R DST project has been split into three phases, and involves a number of meetings and evaluation workshops with key stakeholders to ensure that end-user requirements are met:

- phase 1 (March to July 2013): involves developing the concept, and evaluating the pilot version of the C&R DST following a chemical incident, focussed initially on Inhabited Areas from the UK Recovery Handbook for Chemical Incidents
- phase 2 (July 2013 to June 2014): involves extending the pilot version of the C&R DST to include food production systems and water environments for a chemical incident. Phase 2 also includes updating and refining the Chemical and Radiation Recovery Handbooks, by evaluating the evidence base for recovery options, and incorporating lessons learned from previous incidents
- phase 3 (June 2014 to September 2015): involves extending the C&R DST to include the updated Radiation Recovery Handbook

## Key project outputs

- updated guidance on recovery and remediation following a chemical or radiation incident
- user friendly Chemical and Radiation Recovery Decision Support Tool, suitable for use on computers or other web enabled devices
- facilitate reproducible and transparent decision making, recording decisions made (auditable decision trail)



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### **Project lead**

Public Health England's Centre for Radiation,  
Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE)

### **Co-authorities (Customer Steering Group)**

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department of Transport

Food Standards Agency

UK Government Decontamination Service

### **External Stakeholder Steering Group**

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Department of Health

Food and Environment Research Agency

Home Office

Northern Ireland Public Health Agency

Public Health Wales

Scottish Government Office

Public Health England

Wellington House

133-155 Waterloo Road

London SE1 8UG

[www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

[chemical.recovery@phe.gov.uk](mailto:chemical.recovery@phe.gov.uk)

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