

NAIR Response - Two Stage NAIR Assistance

Stage 1 Response

This is generally provided by a radiation expert equipped with relatively simple monitoring and protective equipment. The Stage 1 Respondent can quickly advise whether a radiological hazard exists and of any necessary actions. However, as the experts will generally only have limited resources, they are not equipped to cope with larger incidents, perhaps involving the spread of contamination. In such events the Stage 1 Respondent will advise the police to initiate the Stage 2 Response.

Stage 2 Response

This is provided by major nuclear establishments and will normally comprise a well-equipped team able to deal with larger incidents. In the unlikely event of an incident that could not be handled by one organisation alone, additional NAIR expertise and resources can also be mobilised either directly by the Respondents or through the police.

Reporting of Incidents

To maintain the effectiveness of the NAIR scheme, the Radiation Protection Division needs to obtain details of incidents from both the users (police and other emergency services) and the Responders. The information required is

- ◆ Date, time and location of incident
- ◆ Brief description of incident
- ◆ NAIR assistance provided
- ◆ Assessment of the effectiveness of the Arrangements
- ◆ Radioactive waste arising
- ◆ Any other comments

This can be provided through any of the Division contact routes. For training purposes, any accompanying photographs, digital images or video clips are particularly appreciated.

Further Information

The Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency has responsibility for co-ordinating the NAIR scheme. It publishes the relevant documentation and provides free training to potential users (primarily the police and other emergency services) and Respondents. The Radiation Protection Division also maintains and reviews a database of past incidents so that lessons may be learnt and improvements made.

For more information on any aspect of these Arrangements or to obtain further free copies of this document or to arrange training, please contact the Radiation Protection Division
T 01235 831600
F 01235 833891
email nair@hpa.org.uk
website www.hpa.org.uk and Search for NAIR



National Arrangements for Incidents Involving Radioactivity

User's Handbook - 2009 Edition



**Providing 24-hour
assistance to the
police in incidents
involving radioactivity**

NAIR only functions because of the efforts of the participating organisations and their representatives. The Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency expresses its gratitude for their continuing support.

In an incident call 0800 834 153

Introduction

Radioactive materials are used widely. As in any other human activity, incidents are bound to occur. Where the potential for such occurrences is reasonably foreseeable there are statutory obligations to ensure suitable contingency arrangements for the protection of the public and others. However, there may be occasions when the established arrangements do not function satisfactorily. There will also be unforeseen incidents. With the exception of terrorist related incidents, the NAIR scheme provides a swift response to such events.

NAIR is a set of national arrangements that provide a 'long-stop' to other emergency plans. NAIR has been designed to provide advice and assistance to the police in incidents involving radioactivity where members of the public may require protection. As such, the police may call upon NAIR whenever they feel they have a need for radiological assistance in an accident.

The arrangements have been devised around assistance to the police, since they will normally be among the first informed of an incident in a public place. The police also have the prime responsibility for protecting the public. However, other organisations such as fire and rescue services, the British Transport police and airport and docks police may all encounter incidents involving radioactivity. Whenever the public is considered at risk these organisations may also call upon NAIR assistance through the police.

Operational Aspects

- ◆ In an incident, the police should check whether plans already exist to deal with the event. This might be done by questioning those involved, checking documentation or by contacting the headquarters of the organisation involved. If no suitable plans exist, or if plans fail, then NAIR assistance should be found.
- ◆ Having received the notification and details of the incident, the Stage 1 Respondent will determine whether they can respond adequately or whether a Stage 2 Response is required. In the latter case, the Stage 1 Respondent can still provide urgent protection advice and may attend the incident scene pending the arrival of the Stage 2 Respondent.
- ◆ Rarely, there may be larger events - such as a major spillage of radioactivity - where it is clear from the outset that a Stage 2 Response is immediately required and this can be requested.
- ◆ The role of the NAIR Respondent is to provide technical advice and assistance to manage the immediate incident and prevent the situation deteriorating.
- ◆ It is not the NAIR Respondent's responsibility to organise substantial recovery operations or to carry out large-scale decontamination.
- ◆ Alerting arrangements include the automatic notification of the relevant environment agency, who can assist in matters relating to radioactive waste.
- ◆ The Radiation Protection Division of the HPA is notified of all NAIR incidents by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.
- ◆ NAIR is not intended for use in response to known or suspected terrorism incidents.

For all non-incident enquiries, please telephone the
Radiation Protection Division on **01235 831600**

National Arrangements for Incidents involving Radioactivity (NAIR)

- ◆ NAIR is a set of national arrangements that provide a 'long-stop' to other emergency plans.
- ◆ In an incident, the police check whether there are plans to deal with the event. If no suitable plans exist, or if plans fail, NAIR assistance should be found.
- ◆ NAIR provides advice and assistance to the police in incidents involving radioactivity where members of the public may require protection.
- ◆ Calling the incident number connects to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, Constabulary Communications Centre, who take details of the incident and contact the nearest NAIR Respondent.
- ◆ The NAIR Respondent will then contact the person dealing with the incident directly.
- ◆ In an incident call **0800 834 153**.

Obtaining Assistance

NAIR assistance may be obtained by means of a 24-hour national notification telephone number. In an incident call **0800 834 153**.

This connects to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, Constabulary Communications Centre, who will take details of the incident and contact the nearest Stage 1 Respondent. The Stage 1 Respondent will then contact the person dealing with the incident directly. Rarely, there may be major events where it is clear from the outset that a Stage 2 Response is required and this can be requested.



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