

EMS Treatment of Radioactively Contaminated Patients



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

P-01627 (12/2025)



Life-threatening emergencies always have priority over concerns involving radioactive contamination.

- 1. Park upwind** and outside controlled area set up by police or fire department personnel. If no controlled area is designated, park at least 100 feet upwind of accident scene.
- 2. Don protective clothing.** Wear gloves, booties, and coveralls.
- 3. Remove victim from immediate area** of suspected contamination when medically feasible. Remain within the controlled area.
- 4. Provide emergency life-saving care** to victim.
- 5. Notify hospital** as soon as possible to allow time to prepare receiving area.
- 6. Remove victim's clothing**, if possible, and wrap victim in a clean sheet or similar covering.
- 7. Prior to leaving scene, remove outer protective clothing and change gloves.** Clothing and non-essential equipment should remain within the controlled area.

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- 8. Do not decontaminate personnel or equipment** unless appropriately trained personnel are present. These personnel may be from a hospital, a radioactive materials licensee, from DHS, or other radiation specialists.
- 9. Transport victim to hospital.** Change gloves after handling victim while en route.
- 10. Transfer victim to clean hospital gurney.** Ambulance personnel, sheets, blankets, and equipment should remain with the ambulance. The equipment and personnel should remain in a controlled area.
- 11. Ambulance personnel, equipment, and vehicles should not return to service until checked for radioactive contamination.** Contamination surveys must be performed by personnel with appropriate training.
- 12. At any point, you may call the Department with radiological questions.** The 24-hour hotline will forward to a pager that should respond within 30 minutes.