



# **State of Queensland Radiological Response Plan**

**An annex of the State of Queensland  
Multi-Agency Response Plan to CBR incidents.**

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## PREFACE

1. The State of Queensland Radiological Response Plan (Radiation Plan) is an annex to the State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response Plan to CBR Incidents (State CBR Plan).
2. Queensland Health is the lead radiation safety agency in Queensland. Through Radiation Health, Health Protection Branch, Queensland Health is responsible for the administration of *the Radiation Safety Act, 1999* and the Radiation Safety Regulation, 2010.

### Aim

3. The aim of the Radiation Plan is to outline the responsibilities and arrangements for the preparedness and initial management of radiological incidents, whether the result of accidental or deliberate origin.

### Objectives and Principles

4. The objectives and principles of the Radiation Plan are described in the objectives and principles of the State CBR plan.

### Application and activation

5. The Radiation Plan applies to Queensland government agencies as identified in the Plan and is supported by agency specific plans, procedures and protocols that detail their roles and responsibilities.
6. In cases of incidents involving deliberate origins, the QPS will decide whether the incident warrants a declaration requiring the incident be coordinated under the State CBR Plan. In such cases the Radiation Plan becomes subordinate to the State CBR Plan and is used only in the direct management of the radiological component of the incident.
7. Response to Nuclear Incidents will be managed under the Radiation Plan.

### Authority

8. The Radiation Plan is noted by the Queensland Counter Terrorism Committee (QCTC).

### Authorisation under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*

The State CBR Plan is a threat specific plan of the SDMP and is authorised under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Assistant Commissioner  
Queensland Police Service  
Executive Officer Queensland Disaster Management Committee

# LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

## Governance and coordination

9. The Radiation Plan is coordinated through the Queensland State CBRN committee.

## Agency responsibilities

10. Depending on whether the release is accidental or deliberate will impact on whether an agency will have a lead and/or support role.
11. Each agency has specific roles during the management of a radiological incident and is responsible for the safety, protection, training and management of its own personnel.
12. Agency responsibilities have been generally described in the State CBR Plan. Where there is a need to reinforce or provide information about responsibilities specific to the Radiation Plan they are included.

## Queensland Health

13. Queensland Health is the lead agency for the implementation of the State of Queensland Radiological Response Plan.
14. Specific Responsibilities include:
  - Public health advice and direction;
  - Assessment of radiological hazards and dose;
  - Advice on the clinical and medical management of exposed and radiologically contaminated casualties or population;
  - Advice on actions to protect the population, first responders and the environment;
  - Hospital or other health facility based multi-casualty response as required;
  - On-site medical teams;
  - On-site radiological detection, identification and monitoring;
  - Off-site laboratory analysis of radiological agents;
  - Coordinating radiological source recovery;
  - Advice and coordination of radiological decontamination; and
  - Advice on the storage, handling and disposal of radiological sources and radioactive waste.
15. Under the authority of the State Health Coordinator, the Public Health Incident Controller, using the resources of the Prevention Division, Queensland Health and Public Health Units will coordinate health surveillance and monitoring; coordinate epidemiological investigation involving multiple local health agencies; communicate medical matters and provide advice to hospital and general medical practitioners throughout the state; coordinate requests for medical personnel, materials and support to local hospitals.
16. Queensland Health will also augment internal patient care capabilities; increase staffing; inventory and ensure adequate supplies of medication and materials; and coordinate patient care with Public Health Unit; and submit requests for assistance and resources through State Health Emergency Coordination Centre.

### Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

17. The QFES Fire Controller in liaison with Queensland Health (Radiation Health Unit) will be responsible for the identification and establishment of HAZMAT safe operating zones and the safety of personnel including those of other agencies. The Fire Controller is responsible for operations within the HAZMAT control zones. The Fire Controller will:
- establish and maintain hot/warm/cold zones with controlled entry/egress points;
  - maintain appropriate HAZMAT Control Procedures;
  - Assess and if required decontaminate emergency personnel and the public, and provide off-site decontamination as required;
  - control entry operations within the hot zone such as rescue/identification; and
  - Provide Chemical/HAZMAT assistance.
18. The QFES Research and Scientific Branch (RSB) may provide the initial response to a radiological incident and where this occurs will notify Radiation Health Unit, Queensland Health immediately. The RSB team may also undertake a preliminary radiation survey as part of its initial incident response procedures.

### Queensland Police Service (QPS)

19. The QPS is responsible for coordination and security of the incident site including:
- establishing and maintaining the police forward command post including the media centre;
  - making declarations of an emergency situation under the provisions of the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 (Qld) (PSPA), as necessary;
  - security support for all involved agencies;
  - facilitating resource supply through the State Crisis Centre (when applicable);
  - the rendering safe of explosive devices;
  - establishing registration of evacuees;
  - establishing victim registration/deceased/alive;
  - controlling entry/egress points from the cold zone and outer cordon;
  - staging and marshalling areas off-site for supporting agencies and resources;
  - coordination of public protection strategies including evacuation and adjacent refuge in liaison with Queensland Health (Radiation Health Unit);
  - liaison with QFES/QAS/QH/ Australian Defence Force (ADF) at on and off-site locations;
  - evidence security – where criminal or negligence origins are evident in liaison with Queensland Health (Radiation Health Unit); and
  - dealing with the media in liaison with (Queensland Health) and the QFES HAZMAT/Fire Controller.
20. QPS is the controlling and coordinating authority across all agencies when the incident is the result of terrorist or criminal action and/or in circumstances where a CBR emergency is declared under the provisions of the PSPA. In this capacity QPS maintains plans and capabilities for the control and coordination of the incident and the coordination of response agencies.

### Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

21. The QAS is responsible for:
- On-site medical care; and
  - Establishment of casualty collection, initial triage, treatment and transport areas in the cold zone.

## RESPONSE

22. Queensland's radiation safety legislation puts in place a framework for licencing the possession, use and transport of radioactive substances and requires that radiation safety and security measures be in place to minimise the likelihood of adverse events
23. The safe management of a radiological incident requires a multi-agency approach between the lead agency and the combatant agency, or agencies as per the authority and responsibility under the relevant legislation as identified in the appropriate Annex.
24. Specific agency response procedures are not covered in this Plan, as this is the responsibility of individual agencies.

## Operational arrangements

25. The relevant agencies will initially respond to the incident according to the manner in which the incident manifests. As radiation hazards are undetectable without appropriate monitoring equipment, in many instances QFES and QPS will respond first to a radiological incident which may only subsequently be identified as such. The incident may also only be recognised as a deliberate or terrorist act after the initial response.
26. As soon as there is reasonable suspicion that a release, or the threatened release, of a radiological agent be the result of a terrorist or criminally instigated action, QPS will be the controlling and coordinating authority for the response across all agencies and the Queensland counter terrorism arrangements activated. Refer to the QCTP for the operational and coordination arrangements.
27. CBR incidents where there is no suspicion of a deliberate or threatened release are to be managed in accordance with the established arrangements.
28. Notification of an incident to Queensland Health can occur through several approaches such as:
  - a. QAS, QFES or QPS (after consultation with QFES) if they are the first responder;
  - b. QFES Research and Scientific Branch;
  - c. A licensee or member of the public; and
  - d. Commonwealth or other jurisdictions.
29. Queensland Health will apply a graded approach to emergency response. This may include phone advice, directing the facility radiation safety officer, or other persons, or officers of Queensland Health who have appropriate radiation safety training and equipment in that location, to supervise the response actions, or Radiation Health Unit may respond directly. Alternatively, Queensland may seek advice from other jurisdictions.

## RECOVERY

30. Determination of when the emergency response phase is completed will be at the discretion of the lead agency. The formal handover of the site or situation to the identified lead recovery agency is dependent on the nature of the incident and whether QPS seeks control of the site to undertake an investigation. The protocols described within the State Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan are applied.
31. The State Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan provides an agreed set of protocols for an efficient multi-agency approach to the recovery phase of a hazardous materials incident where it involves or has the potential to involve a recovery operation that is beyond the capability of a single state government agency.

## REVIEW

32. The Radiation Plan will be reviewed every two years or sooner such as an event or other as identified by the State CBRN Committee.
33. Agencies should submit proposed amendments to the State CBRN Committee for evaluation; and following endorsement amendments to the Plan are to be issued to all stakeholders.

## REFERENCES

34. International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA-TECDOC-1162, Generic procedures for assessment and response during a radiological emergency; August 2000.
35. International Atomic Energy Agency, Safety Standards Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency General Safety Requirements GSR Part 7.2015,
36. ARPANSA Guidance Manual, Technical Report Series No 131 – Medical Management of individuals involved in Radiation Accidents, August 2000.
37. ARPANSA Recommendations Radiation Protection Service No.7. Intervention in Emergency Situations Involving Radiation Exposure. 2004.