



Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center (TNRC)



The Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center (TNRC), where you have been tasked to patrol and provide security, was the center of Iraq's nuclear research for the last several decades. It contains buildings and facilities where sources of ionizing radiation could potentially deliver radiation exposure to individuals that exceed U.S. and International radiation safety limits for the general public; however, your mission can be accomplished safely with minimal radiation exposure, especially if you follow some simple precautions.

Sources of radiation at TNRC are identified in the following ways:

- "Radioactive" painted in red or black spray paint
- A sign stating "Caution Radioactive Materials" (Figure A)
- Yellow and purple (magenta) striped marking tape with a trefoil marking (Figure B)
- "Danger High Radiation Area, Do Not Enter" painted in black spray paint



(see Figure "A")



(see Figure "B")

The buildings containing radiation sources and the areas where radioactive contamination exists, which are identified and clearly marked at TNRC, do not present an immediate or long-term threat to an individual's health and safety, provided these guidelines are followed. Safety tips provided in this fact sheet will assist you in minimizing your exposure to radiation over the course of your mission at TNRC.

The following safety tips are provided to minimize your exposures:

- Do not enter buildings or areas that have been marked with radiation caution signs or tape unless your mission dictates that entry is necessary.
- If you must enter an area or building that is marked as containing radioactive material or contamination, perform required mission actions as quickly as possible and then exit the area.
- Wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible after exiting an area marked as containing radioactive material, or if you suspect you have come in contact with radioactive material. Ensure that hands are washed prior to eating, drinking, smoking, or applying lip-balm and face paint.
- Note the location of any objects you suspect contain radioactive material or contamination. Do not pick up or attempt to move any suspected source. Contact your unit's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) officer who will take charge and identify whether the suspected object is radioactive and what exposures may have been received.

Summary

- Your mission at TNRC can be accomplished safely with minimal radiation exposure, especially if you follow the safety tips provided in this fact sheet.
- If you find any suspect radioactive material or items, leave them alone and contact your NBC officer.

Where can I get more information?

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM)

Phone: 800-222-9698
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>

Program Manager for Environmental Medicine:
Phone: 410-436-2578

Program Manager for Health Physics:
Phone: 410-436-3502

DOD Health Affairs/Deployment Health Support Directorate
<http://deploymentlink.osd.mil/>

DOD Deployment Health Clinical Center
<http://www.deploymenthealth.mil/main.asp>

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRI)
<http://www.afri.usuhs.mil/index.html>

For general information about ionizing radiation and public health issues, see the **U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, website:

ATSDR Toxicological Profile for Ionizing Radiation and Public Health Statement (September 1999)
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp149.html>
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts149.html>

ATSDR Toxicological Profile for Uranium and Public Health Statement (September 1999)
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp150.html>
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts150.html>