

SECTION FOURTEEN

ACTIONS TO INCREASE READINESS FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL UNDER NUCLEAR ATTACK CONDITIONS

This section outlines crisis actions which may be taken by local government fire departments, to increase readiness to deal with the fire problems which could be created by a nuclear attack.

This section is not intended as a detailed guide for fire prevention and control readiness actions to meet a possible nuclear attack. These must be defined by the application of the professional knowledge and skills of the senior officers of local fire departments.

The actions suggested in this section are aimed at increasing readiness progressively from a review of fire plans to full readiness to carry out the local actions planned.

The Increased Readiness actions described in this section would be the responsibility of the fire chief. He would act under directions from the head of local government and would coordinate as necessary with other department heads and the civil defense director.

Actions to Increase Readiness for Fire Prevention and Control Under Nuclear Attack Conditions

1. Review and Update Fire Plans

Fire Chief and key assistants review and update as necessary nuclear attack emergency plans, including basic operations plan, mobilization and deployment plan, accelerated training plan, interjurisdictional mutual aid plans, and plan for emergency guidance to the public.

Review any special plans required for fire protection of public shelters and other vital facilities with building management, industrial security, and military leaders concerned.

Check plans with chief executive, civil defense director, and other department heads to ensure all plans are compatible. Special attention should be given to coordination of plans with the water utility to ensure an adequate supply of water for fire control, as well as for other needs.

Local fire officials meet with gas and electric utility officials and agree on local policy on shut-down of service.

2. Review Personnel Assignments

Review nuclear attack emergency assignments

of regular and auxiliary personnel and update as necessary. Include in emergency assignments necessary fire representatives to primary EOC, support EOC's, and Shelter Complex Headquarters. "Auxiliaries" include any persons who have been given the Support Assistants for Fire Emergency Course or who have been designated by the fire chief to augment regular firefighting forces. (See Section Four of this guide on accelerated training.)

Make certain that alerting lists for fire personnel are up to date.

3. Check Readiness of Fire Facilities and Equipment

Check readiness (including fallout protection, communications, etc.) of departmental and field (battalion, company) emergency headquarters or support EOC's, including any mobile headquarters units, and determine additional equipment and supplies needed, if any.

Determine readiness of all pieces of fire apparatus, supporting vehicles, and special equipment such as radiological monitoring instruments or hose adapters for mutual-aid use. Check availability of gasoline and other essential supplies.

4. Correct Deficiencies in Equipment and Facility Readiness

Accelerate, as necessary, maintenance of apparatus and supporting equipment, including communications, to ensure maximum availability of all emergency equipment.

Take any measures necessary such as activating standby telephone service, and filling generator fuel tanks at departmental and field emergency headquarters (e.g., support EOC's). Ensure that adequate fuel is available for fire apparatus.

5. Alert Fire Personnel

Alert both on-duty and off-duty fire personnel and fire department auxiliary personnel. Brief all personnel on their emergency assignments, the department's nuclear attack emergency plans, and special instructions. Also brief personnel as necessary on weapons effects and hazards, shelter, etc

Cancel leave for full-time personnel and direct volunteers and emergency augmentation (auxiliary) personnel to stand by for duty.

Advise all personnel to review shelter and survival plans for their families.

6. Commence Accelerated Training as Necessary

As necessary, commence accelerated training of regular personnel in special emergency skills such as using radiation monitoring equipment, and of any additional auxiliary personnel required. (See Section Four on accelerated training.)

7. Commence Public Advice on Fire Prevention and Suppression Measures

Begin instructing the public, through news media and other means on actions to reduce the probability of fires caused by the thermal (heat) effects of a nuclear explosion. Actions may include closing venetian or other blinds, or covering windows with whitewash or aluminum foil to reduce ignitions from the thermal pulse; action to eliminate trash, leaves, or other potential ignition points; and householder ac-

tions relating to turning off appliances. Include instructions on extinguishing small fires. As agreed with local utilities in Step 1 above, give advice on shut down of gas, electric, and water service. (See Section Two of this guide, on emergency public information. Coordinate all actions with local Emergency Public Information Officer.)

Coordinate with Public Service, Streets, Sanitation or other appropriate department to ensure trash is promptly collected.

8. Mobilize Fire Personnel

Call all regular and auxiliary personnel to duty, and deploy them to their initial nuclear attack emergency assignments, including any planned support to law-enforcement personnel in assisting movement to shelter.

9. Urge Citizens To Make Final Fire Prevention Preparations

Through the local Emergency Public Information Officer, urge all citizens to make final fire prevention preparations outlined in step 7 above.