

GENERAL ORDER



Subject Radiation Detection Program		
Topic HSC	Series 802	Number 02
Effective Date November 3, 2006		
Replaces: General Order 802.02 (Radiation Detection Program), Effective Date April 21, 2004		

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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I. BACKGROUND

Because a criminal radiological event may occur in the District of Columbia, the Department's Radiation Detection Pager Program puts in place basic protocol for the use of Radiation Detection Pagers by Police Service Area (PSA) members. Because these devices are extremely sensitive, they are used to detect gamma radiation that may be slightly higher than the typical level of "background" radiation that most people are exposed to on a daily basis. This may then permit early detection of, and early response to, any potential criminal event. Members can then alert the Special Threat Action Team (STAT) which is trained to assess whether the radiological incident is a criminal event, and whether it is related to a terrorist action. The STAT official can then initiate the appropriate response protocol. (CALEA 46.1.2)

II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to train and equip members with the knowledge and tools necessary to recognize and respond appropriately to early indicators of terrorist threats, and other hazards.

III. DEFINITIONS

In this directive, the following terms shall have the designated meanings:

1. Dosimeter – A small, portable instrument used for measuring and recording the total accumulated dose of ionizing radiation in a human.
2. Radiation Detection Pager – A portable instrument that detects the presence and intensity level of radiation, and the radius of the dispersion.
3. Radiation – Energy that is transmitted in the form of waves (gamma rays, x-rays, or ultraviolet light), or particles (alpha particles or beta particles).

4. Natural Radiation – Radiation that is naturally occurring, emanating from the earth and outer space.
5. Unnatural Radiation – Radiation that occurs due to human manipulation of radioactive isotopes (e.g., x-rays, nuclear detonation, etc).
6. Radiological Event – An intentional release of radiation, or radioactive material, which may be criminal, and may be related to a terrorist event. The release may result in a measurable level of radioactivity that is above natural and unnatural radiation that most people may be exposed to on daily basis.
7. Radiological Incident – An inadvertent release of radiation or radioactive material, which is not the result of a criminal event. The release may result in a measurable level of radioactivity that is above naturally occurring levels (Level 9 reading on the Radiation Detection Pager).
8. Domestic Security Section, Office of Homeland Security and Counterterrorism (OHSCT) – Responsible for coordinating Special Threat Action Team (STAT) activities, and providing logistical support to activated members of STAT.
9. Special Threat Action Team (STAT) – A team comprised of members who have been specially trained and equipped to provide police services in hazardous environments, which responds to terrorist events, or other criminal hazardous material contaminations. [CALEA 46.1.2 & 46.1.8(e-f)]

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VI. CROSS REFERENCES

- A. GO-PER-100.11 (Medical Services)
- B. GO-HS-800.02 (Incident Command System)

//SIGNED//
Charles H. Ramsey
Chief of Police

CHR:SOA:DAH:JAH:DEP:sww:tss