

A photograph showing emergency responders in full hazmat suits and respirators working at an outdoor scene. In the background, a white ambulance with "MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMS" is visible. The scene is cordoned off with orange traffic cones.

Emergency Planning and Response

Who would pay for damages in the event of an accident resulting from the transportation of spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste?

In the unlikely event of an accident that results in a release of radioactive materials, any resulting damages would be covered under the Price-Anderson Act, which establishes a system of financial protection for the public in a nuclear accident, regardless of who causes the damage.

The Price-Anderson Act provides for indemnification of liability up to \$10 billion to cover claims that might arise from an accident in which radioactive materials were released, or one in which an authorized precautionary evacuation occurred. If the damage from a nuclear incident appeared likely to exceed that amount, the Price-Anderson Act contains a congressional commitment to thoroughly review the particular incident and take whatever action is determined necessary to provide full and prompt compensation to the public.

In addition, motor carriers who transport nuclear materials will have a minimum of \$5 million in private insurance coverage. This insurance coverage will be available in the event of an accident that does not involve the release of nuclear material or a precautionary evacuation. Rail carriers are self-insuring for accidents other than nuclear incidents or precautionary evacuations.