

Emergency Planning and Response

Q: Who will help state, local, and tribal safety officials respond to an accident involving spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste?

In the event of an accident, state, tribal, and local emergency responders would have federal resources available, if requested, to help them with emergency response activities. In addition, carriers have response programs and plans in place to assist local officials with emergencies. Specialty contractors are maintained by carriers to assist with response and recovery efforts, and carrier insurance defrays the costs of a response by state and local officials.

The federal government has its own experienced teams of emergency responders. DOE special-response teams from eight regional coordinating offices are available to assist with any transportation accident involving radioactive materials. These special-response teams assess the emergency situation, advise decision-makers on actions that could be taken, and provide expertise in assessment, area monitoring, air sampling, and exposure and contamination control.



DOE's eight Radiological Regional Coordinating Offices.

