



Radiation Emergencies

Dirty Bombs	
What is a “Dirty Bomb”?	<p>A dirty bomb is any simple explosive device with radioactive powder or pellets.</p> <p>The explosion from the bomb carries the radioactive material into the targeted area.</p> <p>Radiation from a dirty bomb cannot be seen, smelled, felt, or tasted.</p>
A dirty bomb is <i>not</i> the same as an atomic bomb.	<p>A dirty bomb cannot create an atomic blast. A dirty bomb uses explosives to scatter radioactive dust, smoke, or other material in order to cause radioactive contamination.</p>
What are the dangers?	<p>The main danger from a dirty bomb is from the initial explosion -it can cause serious injuries and property damage.</p> <p>Radioactive materials used in a dirty bomb would probably not create enough radiation exposure to cause immediate serious illness, except to those people who are very close the blast site.</p> <p>However, radioactive dust and smoke spread further away could be dangerous to inhaled.</p>
How would I know if I’ve been exposed to radiation?	<p>People cannot see, smell, feel, or taste radiation; so you may not know if you have been exposed. Only special equipment can determine how much radiation is present.</p> <p>Low levels of radiation exposure (like those expected from a dirty bomb situation) do not cause any symptoms. Higher levels of radiation exposure may produce symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and swelling and redness of the skin.</p> <p>If you develop any of these symptoms contact you doctor immediately.</p>
What immediate steps can I take to protect myself?	<p>If you are outside and close to the incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover your nose and mouth with a cloth. • Don’t touch objects thrown off by an explosion. • Go into the nearest building that has not sustained damage from the explosion. • Once inside, take off your outer layer of clothing and seal it in a plastic bag. • Keep bag away from yourself and others. • Wait for authorities to give the all clear. <p>If you are inside and close to the incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the walls and windows are not broken, stay in the building and do not leave. • Shut all windows, outside doors, and vents that lead outside. • If walls and windows are broken, go into an interior room and do not leave. • Wait for authorities to give the all clear.