

Narrative
Protecting the People of Kansas: Population Monitoring in Kansas
<p>The National Response Framework was developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to prepare for and respond to all types of national disasters and emergencies in a coordinated way. Under the National Response Framework, population monitoring is identified as a responsibility of the state and local government. Population Monitoring is the process of screening concerned citizens for the presence of radiation contamination. A Community Reception Center is established after a radiation incident to perform both screening and the removal of contamination on citizens, their pets, and their vehicles.</p> <p>Kansas has developed a system which combines local leadership and State level support to perform population monitoring. This system involves four major components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Planning.2. Creation of a stockpile of supplies and equipment.3. Training and registering volunteers.4. Partnerships with the Kansas Animal Response Teams.
<p>1. Planning</p> <p>The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has developed a Guidance Document that contains information about setting up a Community Reception Center for Radiation Incidents. Local health departments in Kansas can use this document to help create a plan for population monitoring in their jurisdictions.</p>
<p>2. Creation of a stockpile of supplies and equipment</p> <p>KDHE has developed a stockpile of the supplies and equipment which can be used to start-up a community reception center. These include equipment to protect the workers such as gloves, coveralls, and face shields; radiation detection equipment to identify contamination and track exposure of workers; and operational supplies such as tags, labels, and towels. KDHE can transport this stockpile to any county in Kansas who requests the supplies to set up a Community Reception Center. There are enough supplies to get the Community Reception Center started. For continued operation, additional supplies will have to be ordered by the county as soon as possible after operations begin.</p>

3. Training and registering volunteers.

The Kansas Radiation Response Volunteer Corps (or RRVC) was established to work with radiation professionals throughout the state to recruit and train them to serve as volunteers in a Community Reception center. These radiation professionals have a background and experience working with radiation. This background helps them to be comfortable with their response role at a Community Reception Center. They are familiar with the radiation detection equipment and with monitoring and decontamination techniques used in the Center. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has trained a registered cadre of RRVC volunteers who would be called to respond to the Community Reception Center and perform the radiological roles at the Center such as monitoring and decontamination. The local health department will provide staffing at the Community Reception Center for those not in a radiation related role, such as command/management.

4. Partnerships with the Kansas State Animal Response Teams.

Pets are a part of many Kansas families. According to the Humane Society of the United States, 39% of U.S. households own at least one dog, and 33% own at least one cat. Animals will be brought to the Community Reception Centers with their owners and will also need to be monitored and decontaminated. Radiation Response Volunteer Corps members will perform the monitoring and decontamination of the pets at the center. Working with the RRVC members will be members of Kansas State Animal Response Teams. Kansas State Animal Response Teams are county and regional teams which provide animal disaster response support. They can assist with the registration and housing of pets while their owners are being monitored and decontaminated at the Center.

If a radiological incident or emergency occurs in Kansas, it is likely that there will be a large number of citizens and their pets who want to be monitored to ensure they have not become contaminated. The system for population monitoring in Kansas creates a partnership between the state and local health departments along with support from volunteer groups which will ensure that the services of a Community Reception Center can be effectively provided to Kansas citizens to safeguard their health and safety.

For more information on the Kansas Radiation Response Volunteer Corps, please visit our website at:

<http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/rrvc.htm>