



# Radioactive Material Incident

## Report the incident



If you discover a radioactive release on-campus, immediately alert the Virginia Tech Police Department by calling 911.



In labs or at work at Virginia Tech, report all releases of radioactive material to your supervisor.

## Small spill clean-up

People who are not authorized to work with radioactive materials should not attempt to clean up a spill. Radioactive materials workers should consult their department for detailed procedures about how to clean up a spill or to perform decontamination.

## Major spill or contamination in your facility at Virginia Tech



Warn people who are near the spill. Block off the area, and keep bystanders away.



Call 911.



If possible and only with appropriate training, contain the spill.



Assemble and survey all people who may have come into contact with the contamination or entered the contaminated area.



Follow instructions from medical authorities.

## Skin and body contamination



Remove contaminated clothing and seal it in a plastic bag.



Call 911.



If possible, note the original meter reading and location of the contamination.



Wash skin with mild soap and lukewarm water for 2-3 minutes.



Repeat washing until contamination is gone or it cannot be reduced farther without harm to skin.



Note the final count rate, and report the results to medical authorities.

## Explosion of a radioactive device or "dirty bomb"



Close and lock all doors and windows.



Turn off fans, heating, and air conditioners.



If possible, bring pets inside.



If there is a basement, go there.

Remember: To reduce your risks of exposure to radiation, think about *time*, *distance*, and *shielding*.



Minimizing the length of time that you exposed will reduce your risk of injury.



The farther you are away from the source of radiation, the lower exposure.



A barrier between yourself and radioactive material can reduce your exposure.