



International Regulators Conference  
on Nuclear Security

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HILTON HOTEL • ROCKVILLE • MARYLAND

# Response to Security Events

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## Response to Security Events

Physical protection (also called physical security) consists of a variety of measures to protect nuclear facilities and material against sabotage, theft, diversion, and other malicious acts.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and its licensees use a graded approach for physical protection, consistent with the significance of the facilities or material to be protected.

The NRC establishes the regulatory requirements and assesses compliance, and licensees are responsible for providing the protection.

## Protection of Nuclear Facilities

Nuclear facilities that require physical protection include nuclear reactors, fuel cycle facilities, and spent fuel storage and disposal facilities. Physical protection programs for these facilities include the following key features:

- Threat Assessment
- Physical Protection Areas
- Intrusion Detection
- Intrusion Alarm Assessment
- Armed Response
- Regulatory Initiatives
- Local, State, and Federal agencies

## Protection of Nuclear Material in Transit

Transportation of spent nuclear fuel and other high activity shipments require physical protection. Key features of physical protection for transportation include:

- Use of NRC-certified shipment overpacks and canisters.
- Fuel within canisters is dense and in solid form.
- Advance planning and coordination with local law enforcement
- Protection of information about schedules.
- Regular communication between transports and control centers.
- Armed escorts within heavily populated areas.
- Vehicle immobility measures





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## Key Questions

- How do national authorities prepare for the continuum of security events faced by nuclear facilities?
- How do national authorities prepare for the continuum of security events associated with radioactive materials?
- How do national programs integrate response force tactics, techniques, procedures, and communications with nuclear facility staff?
- How do national authorities balance information protection with the need to share information with licensees and other security organizations?