

Incident and Emergency Preparedness and Response

Objective

To maintain and further enhance efficient Agency, national and international EPR [emergency preparedness and response] capabilities and arrangements for effective response to nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies independent of the triggering event(s). To improve exchange of information on nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies among Member States, international stakeholders, and the public and media in the preparedness stage of, and during response to, nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies, independent of the triggering event(s).

Strengthening Emergency Preparedness Arrangements

The Agency continued developing two EPR Series publications that will help Member States implement effective EPR arrangements for responding to a severe accident at a nuclear power plant (NPP).

The Agency delivered several workshops on Arrangements for Notification, Reporting and Assistance in Nuclear or Radiological Incidents and Emergencies and on Emergency Preparedness and Response Arrangements for Effective Communication with the Public.

Response Arrangements with Member States

The Agency held a Technical Meeting in Vienna in May 2022 to evaluate the Level 3 Convention Exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates in 2021 and to consolidate the lessons identified. The host State, participating States and international organizations presented their evaluations of the exercise.

Actions to further increase transparency, promote the exchange of information, and improve the Member State Emergency Preparedness and Response Information Management System (EPRIMS) user experience were taken in 2022. These included refining the EPRIMS self-assessment modules and enhancing EPRIMS features and functions to better support the Emergency Preparedness Review peer review service and its reports.

Response to Events

The Agency established a multilingual team operating 24/7 in order to maintain systematic contact with field teams in Ukraine and with the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine, as well as to provide ad hoc technical assessments of developments with potential safety consequences. These events and their consequences are archived in a database that supports the Agency's analysis and its response.

The Agency arranged seven deliveries of nuclear safety- and security-related equipment to Ukraine, either donated by Member States or procured by the Agency with cash contributions from



Full response mode exercise, September 2022.

Member States. Eleven Member States offered equipment for donation to Ukraine; 12 Member States and one international organization offered extrabudgetary cash contributions to the Agency for assistance to Ukraine in the area of nuclear safety and security.

The Agency held 11 technical briefings for UN personnel serving in Ukraine as well as for staff of international organizations and permanent missions to the Agency on preparedness for a nuclear or radiological emergency in light of the situation in Ukraine.

In response to a request for assistance from Peru in 2022 regarding a patient who had developed severe skin lesions a few weeks after an interventional radiology procedure, the Agency coordinated an international assistance mission, involving the Response and Assistance Network (RANET) National Assistance Capabilities of France.

In-house Preparedness and Response

The Agency maintained its 24/7 response capability in parallel with its response activities regarding the situation in Ukraine throughout 2022. The Agency trained staff on how to discharge emergency response roles and conducted two internal reduced-scope full response mode exercises as part of its training activities. The in-house training and exercise programme was evaluated by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2022, which found it to be relevant and instrumental in enabling the Agency to fulfil its emergency response roles.