

Personal Radiation Detector (PRD)

Course Description

This course is designed to train law enforcement and public safety officers to employ department procured and issued personal radiation detectors (PRD) within the bounds of the jurisdiction/agency operational environment, including local instruments, procedures, and legal considerations. The course provides training and extensive hands-on practice with real radioactive material. PRD instruments used in the course are the instruments owned and issued by the responder organization. The responder organization will provide PRDs for student use in the course, preferably one PRD per student

Min/Max Enrollment: 25-40

Hours: 7 hours

CEUs: .7

Format: Mobile

DHS Course #: PER-243

Prerequisites: NA

Other prerequisites: Applicants should be law enforcement and public safety officers who have been issued a PRD and whose duties place them in locations where illicit radiological/nuclear material may be hidden, transported, assembled, and/or employed by terrorist elements.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, participants will be able to:

- DETECT and locate the presence of radiation and/or radiological material
- IDENTIFY and distinguish among false alarms; alarms due to background radiation; alarms due to legitimate causes; and alarms due to illicit radiological/nuclear material
- MEASURE the approximate radiation level that generated the alarm upon detecting, locating, and assessing the alarm
- USE radiological/nuclear material recognition factors to assist in assessing the situation
- IDENTIFY the illicit use of radiological/nuclear material and initiate organizational protocols to ensure the health and safety of responders and the public
- IDENTIFY the properties of nuclear and radiological material.
- LIST the properties of gamma and neutron radiation as they relate to the detection of illicit radioactive material.
- EXPLAIN the differences between exposure to the radiation and contamination from the material.
- DESCRIBE how the principles of time, distance, and shielding relate to officer safety and nuclear/radiological interdiction.
- RECOGNIZE indicators and possible appearance of legitimate and illicit nuclear/radiological material.
- RECOGNIZE containers, shielding, and physical appearance of radioactive material.
- RECOGNIZE the properties of bulk cargo with naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM).
- DESCRIBE the properties of nuclear medicine patients.
- RECOGNIZE potential illicit activities from physiological signs and symptoms in suspects.
- LIST the effects of the background radiation from the ground and building materials on the detection of illicit radiological material.
- IDENTIFY the operational aspects, controls, and primary components needed to operate the PRD in the field.
- EMPLOY the Alarm Response Guide with a PRD.
- APPLY legal considerations when employing a PRD for nuclear/radiological interdiction.
- RECEIVE, RESPOND TO, and ASSESS PRD alarms using instrument response, visual and audio indicators, and interview results to categorize alarms.
- Upon discovery of the illicit use of radiological / nuclear material, ISOLATE the material and SECURE the scene in a way that ensures the health and safety of the officers and the public.

Target Audience/Discipline

Law Enforcement, Fire Service, Hazardous Materials (HazMat), Emergency Medical Services, Public Works, and Response personnel assigned to duties employing a PRD.

Eligibility

It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction to select course participants.

Certificate

A certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the course, granting .7 continuing education units (CEUs) through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). A letter verifying CEUs can be provided upon request by contacting CTOS at ctosnnsa@nv.doe.gov.



Performing a primary level screening on a vehicle

Cost

All training and course materials are provided at no cost to eligible participants. Funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency/National Preparedness Directorate and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Location

Regional, State, or Local training facilities

Enrollment Information

In order to attend a training class delivered by one of the FEMA/NPD training partners, a request must be submitted to the designated U.S. Department of Homeland Security training point-of-contact. For a Training Coordinator in your area, please call 877.963.2867 or email: ctosmttreg@nv.doe.gov.



Exercise surveying transport vehicles for illicit materials

Examples of some PRD models taught in this course