

PRESENTATION OF SOME ACTIVITIES OF IAEA IN THE FIELD OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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The IAEA has important obligations under the Assistance Convention related to the coordination of international assistance in the case of a radiation emergency. In implementing these obligations, the Agency has set up a Response Assistance Network (RANET). The RANET is a system by which Member States register capabilities they may make available in the case of a radiation emergency. The aim of RANET is to facilitate:

- The provision of requested international assistance;
- The harmonization of emergency assistance capabilities; and
- The relevant exchange of information and feedback of experience.

The RANET includes biosimetry and complements other IAEA initiatives to promote emergency preparedness and response among its Member States in accordance with the Safety Requirements activity. Several biosimetry laboratories have already registered under RANET (e.g. Finland, France) and more are on the way. The IAEA is planning training activities (e.g. intercomparison) for biosimetry laboratories signed for RANET. Several documents have been published to support the provision of this network.

Furthermore, IAEA has been involved in most of the major radiological accidents over the past and particularly in Biosimetry assessments in case of radiation emergencies. Those radiation emergencies situations have all been reported in IAEA accident reports which have sections on Biosimetry assessment and results.

The biosimetry assays used are described in a Technical Report edited by IAEA 405 and a new version of this report has started. Questionnaire was sent out for Biosimetry labs all over the world with the purpose to identify the needs of labs and their suggestions for revision. Deadline for responses is September 30. After this date the IAEA will start the process of drafting the new version with involvement of international experts.

Moreover IAEA organises training in the field of Biosimetry through the financial support of some fellowships. Regional and national training courses within regional and national technical cooperation projects are also organised.