



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Advisory Statement for a Better Understanding of Radiation

Texas citizens have concerns about the potential effects of radiation on their families and their communities. Some of these apprehensions are reasonable, well-founded and fact-based, while others are understandably emotional responses to sensational, unfounded claims that are sometimes heard in the media or spread online.

Fortunately, there are reliable resources and committed citizens dedicated to empowering Texans to help differentiate between fact and fiction when it comes to radiation. The Texas Radiation Advisory Board (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/>) is responsible for providing the state with accurate advice about the benefits and potential risks associated with radiation. The board is appointed by the governor, and consists of 15 subject matter experts and three members of the public. Working on behalf of the people, this volunteer body provides an on-going, independent review of the rules of state agencies that regulate radiation while providing guidance for programs run by these agencies.

Based on decades of peer-reviewed science, rigorous oversight and safe real-world use, it has been determined that when radiation safety practices and applicable regulations are followed, the risk to the public is minimal from common exposure to natural, medical or industrial radiation sources. Sensational stories exaggerating potential risks of radiation neglect to include scientific information, instead favoring fear mongering. Texans deserve more respect for their intellect along with trustworthy information when discussing issues related to radiation.

Therefore, we strongly recommend concerned citizens to visit the links below for reputable and reliable information, which will empower Texans to understand more about radiation, its effects and its potential risks:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC):

[Radiation and Its Health Effects](#)

[Radiation All Around Us](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

[Radiation: Facts, Risks and Realities](#)

[RadTown USA \(easy to understand\)](#)

International System of Units (SI) Conversion:

[Centers for Disease Control – More About Radiation Dose](#)

[Radiation Units and Conversion Factors – Radiation Emergency Medical Management – US Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Please note: If any of these web pages become inactive, as happens occasionally, simply search the key words in the titles within the NRC and EPA websites.

Texas Radiation Advisory Board

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