

Dear ACCT member,

On March 11, 2011 a massive earthquake hit northeastern Japan. The earthquake and resulting tsunami destroyed tens of thousands of lives. While Japan dealt with these devastating events, a new fear arose: that of potential large-scale radiation incident. Fukushima is over 3,000 miles from the United States (Kapaa, HI). Although the chances of a radiation incident occurring now seems less likely, there is still public concern regarding the risk radiation exposure from Fukushima poses to U.S. citizens. This concern is highlighted by the recent hysteria along the U.S. west coast prompting the unnecessary purchase of potassium iodide (KI) by many.

The toxicology community will, if not already, be faced with addressing questions from the public. Questions such as: Are food products from Japan safe to consume? What is the radiation risk from consuming fish? Is it safe to swim in the Pacific waters? Not only should we be prepared to deal with questions from the public, but also those from the medical community.

The Radiation Special Interest Group (RSIG) has compiled the informative and free links listed below. These resources are helpful documents produced by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Federal Drug Administration, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that provides basic information regarding radiation basics, nuclear reactors, emergency response plans, and therapeutic management.

#### CDC links

- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/ki.asp#med>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/radiation/KI.html>
- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/japan/ki.asp>
- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/>

#### FDA links

- <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/EmergencyPreparedness/BioterrorismandDrugPreparedness/ucm072757.pdf>
- <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/EmergencyPreparedness/BioterrorismandDrugPreparedness/ucm072265.htm>
- <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/ucm080549.pdf>
- [www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/ucm080542.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/ucm080542.pdf)

## Radiation Basics

- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/measurement.asp>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/radiation/RadBasics.html>

## Environmental Monitoring of Water, Air, and Milk

<http://www.epa.gov/narel/radnet/>

## Japanese Monitoring Data

<http://www.mext.go.jp/english/>

## Nuclear Reactor/ Emergency Response Plans

- <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/fs-emerg-plan-prep-nuc-power.pdf>

The National Council for Radiation Protection Report Number 161 "Management of Persons Contaminated with Radionuclides: Handbook (2008)

- Although not free, the above reference is very important and instructive.

All of the above governmental agencies provide contacts on their websites for further inquiries. Additional reading materials can be provided upon request to the RSIG.

Thank you,

Sophia Sheikh, MD  
Communications Coordinator,  
Radiation Special Interest Group,  
American Congress of Clinical Toxicology