

Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV)

URL: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/appraisals/emergency-reviews.asp?s=7&l=45>

Since 1999, the IAEA provides the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) service to appraise, independently, preparedness for a nuclear and radiological (radiation) incident or emergency in Member States.

An EPREV provides an appraisal by the IAEA and international experts, focusing on preparedness for response to a radiation emergency and assessing the capability to respond to such situations.

Although an EPREV is based on international guidelines and best practices, it is not prescriptive: it takes into account the practical context in the host country and emphasizes the positive features of practices and customs within that country.

An EPREV can be anything from the appraisal of the arrangements at a specific installation to a full appraisal of all of the arrangements in a requesting Member State, including on-site, off-site and national arrangements, measured against international standards in emergency preparedness and response.

In all cases, the facility categorization laid down in the IAEA Safety Standards publication, Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (GS-R-2, 2002) will be used as the starting point for determining the scope and content of the appraisal.



Why request an EPREV mission?

- To compare the host country's arrangements with current international standards and good practices;
- To initiate a fundamental reassessment of well-established arrangements that have evolved over time, but that are now thought to contain some inefficiency;
- To benefit from the EPREV team members' experience by considering how other Member States have successfully implemented innovative and effective solutions;
- To ensure that the host country's arrangements are complete at all levels, are practical within the constraints of the local conditions and can be implemented effectively;
- To determine if the emergency preparedness and response framework has ensured an appropriate set of arrangements for all types of facility, reflecting the full range of risks to which they apply;
- To highlight the strengths and opportunities for improvements;
- To prioritize the aspects requiring improvement, recognizing that resources are limited;
- To highlight the need for additional training;
- To identify possible objectives for future emergency exercises;
- To appraise aspects of the arrangements thought to be inadequate or to require an independent review;
- To raise the profile of emergency planning within the host country;
- To demonstrate the commitment of the government of the host country to emergency preparedness and response.
- To maintain or enhance the credibility of the host country's emergency preparedness programme.



Role of the host country

The EPREV can only be conducted with the total cooperation of the host country. For the host country to get the most out of the appraisal, it will need to be prepared to organize meetings, describe arrangements in detail and provide documentation, tours of facilities and access to equipment used in emergency response.



EPREV stages

1. Receipt of a request from the government of the host country to the IAEA
2. Briefing the requesting country on what can be expected
3. Development of the Terms of Reference and agreement on the scope, content and schedule of the EPREV
4. Preparation of a self-assessment providing the basis for the preparatory visit, if required
5. Preparation, in most cases involving a preparatory visit by senior members of the appraisal team
6. Appointment of the EPREV team
7. Gathering of information about the emergency preparedness and response capabilities and arrangements through meetings, interviews and survey of facilities and equipment
8. Evaluation of the information gathered by the EPREV team against predetermined criteria and standards
9. Exit briefing by the EPREV team based on the preliminary findings
10. Presentation of the final report to the host country
11. Follow-up mission performed subsequent to the main EPREV mission

Confidentiality

The report's initial distribution is restricted to the authorities concerned, the contributors to the report and the responsible IAEA staff. In the interest of openness, however, countries are encouraged to make their reports public. Therefore, the final report of the EPREV mission will be derestricted after 90 days unless the host country specifically requests that the report remains restricted. Any technical notes or other information that identifies vulnerabilities will be treated as confidential according to the IAEA confidentiality regime.

Outlook

The IAEA is committed to ensuring the quality of the EPREV service. Countries will be encouraged to cooperate with the IAEA by requesting the EPREV and by providing experts for their conduct in other countries.

The EPREV mission report contains an assessment of the current situation vis-à-vis the relevant IAEA safety standards, including the listing of good practices, as well as recommendations and suggestions for the development of emergency preparedness and response capabilities (to be implemented immediately to develop the interim capability and/or for the longer term implementation). In the interest of openness, countries are encouraged to make their report public.



For further Information:

Contact: iec-information@iaea.org
See: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/appraisals/emergency-reviews.asp?s=7&l=45>

Write to:
Incident and Emergency Centre
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100
1400 Vienna, Austria