

WHY REQUEST AN EPREV?

There are many reasons why the government of a Member State may request an EPREV. Some of the more common reasons are summarised below:

- To compare the host nation's arrangements with current international standards and best practice;
- To initiate a fundamental re-assessment of well-established arrangements that have evolved over time, but 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 nation'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 legal 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 positive and negative aspects of the arrangements;
- To prioritize the aspects requiring improvement recognising 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 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 safety and particularly emergency preparedness.

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 providing experts for their conduct in other countries.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained from the:
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IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

EPREV

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REVIEW

WHAT IS AN EPREV?

A service provided by the **INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY** to appraise preparedness for nuclear and/or radiological emergencies in Member States.



The EPREV concept

While each Member State is responsible for conducting a periodic appraisal of its emergency preparedness and response capabilities, the IAEA can also conduct, at the request of the Member State, an *independent Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV)*.

An EPREV provides an opportunity for a Member State to have its emergency preparedness and response programme and capabilities independently assessed and evaluated against international standards. Such an independent assessment is often useful to maintain or enhance the credibility of the emergency preparedness programme and to identify in an objective and unbiased manner the areas where improvements may be required. As a secondary benefit, an EPREV allows information on best practices from the host country to be made available to other Member States.



The EPREV service, offered since 1999, is an appraisal by international experts selected for their experience in such reviews, for their knowledge of international requirements and best practices, and for their ability to recognize and understand the strengths of different national systems and arrangements. Although the EPREV is based on international guidelines and best practices, it is not prescriptive nor is it rigid: it takes into account the practical context in the host country and emphasizes the positive features of “how things are done” in that country. The focus of EPREVs is on preparedness for response to nuclear and/or radiological emergencies. The main focus is on assessing the capability to respond to such situations rather than on the safety of facilities or practices.



Scope of an EPREV

Various types of missions are available within the EPREV programme. The scope and depth are decided during discussions between the requesting country and the IAEA.

EPREVs can be anything from the appraisal of the arrangements at a specific installation to a full appraisal of all the arrangements in a requesting country, including on-site, off-site and national arrangements. In all cases the facility categorisation laid down in the EPR-METHOD for Developing Arrangements for Response to a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency will be used as the starting point for determining the scope and content of the appraisal.

HOW AN EPREV IS CARRIED OUT

A typical EPREV mission consists of the following stages:

- Receipt of a request from the government of the host country, leading to a memorandum of understanding between the country and the IAEA;
- Briefing the requesting country on what can be expected;
- Preparation of a self-assessment providing the basis for the preparatory visit;
- Preparation, in most cases involving a preparatory visit by senior members of the appraisal team;
- Agreement on the scope, content and schedule of the EPREV;
- Appointment of the EPREV team;

- Gathering information about the arrangements through meetings, interviews and survey of facilities and equipment;
- Evaluation of the information gathered by the EPREV team against pre-determined criteria and the standards;



- Exit briefing by the EPREV team based on the preliminary findings;
- Presentation of the final report to the host country.

A follow-up mission is to be performed within 2 years of the main EPREV mission.

WHAT THE HOST COUNTRY CAN EXPECT

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

CONFIDENTIALITY

All team members will sign a confidentiality agreement prior to visiting the host country. The EPREV report will only be issued in confidence to the host country, unless the host country approves a wider distribution.