

PUBLIC AFFAIRSFigure 2. Contingency Release Number 1**CONTINGENCY RELEASE NUMBER 1**

To the General Public

“When the Public Is Probably in Danger”
(Does confirm)

(Format of sample release to be used when a nuclear accident occurs. Public safety considerations require this announcement because of the likelihood of fire or conventional high-explosive detonation of the weapon. The following statement should be made locally or by appropriate higher authority if no local authority is available.)

An aircraft (other type of transportation) accident occurred (or other circumstances) about (location and time). The accident involved a nuclear weapon that contains conventional explosives and radioactive material. There is no danger of a nuclear detonation, but there is a danger from the conventional explosives that (are burning, may detonate, have detonated). The public is requested to stay out of (indicate the area) (under surveillance by guards) in the interest of safety and to avoid hampering operations at the accident scene. An experienced response team has been ordered to the scene.

(If appropriate, the following WILL be included in the release.) Radioactive material in the form of dust may be scattered because of the accident. The dust poses little risk to health unless taken into the body by breathing or swallowing, although it is unlikely that any person might inhale or swallow an amount that should cause illness. As a precautionary measure, you are asked to stay calm and indoors. Turn off fans, air conditioners, and forced-air heating units that bring in fresh air from the outside. Use them only to re-circulate air already in the building. Eat and drink only canned or packaged foods that have been inside. If you must go outside, cover your nose and mouth and avoid stirring up and breathing any dust. It is important to remember that your movement might cause yourself greater exposure to any radioactive dust, should it be present, and you might possibly spread contamination to others.

(If plutonium is involved) One of the materials involved is plutonium, which is both a toxic and a radiation hazard and a chemical poison if ingested. The radiation given off consists of alpha particles that do not have sufficient energy to penetrate buildings, clothing, or even the outer skin. Therefore, short-term exposure to contamination outside the body poses a negligible health risk. The precautions mentioned earlier should be carefully followed to prevent inhalation or ingestion.

(If uranium is involved) One of the materials involved is uranium. Uranium, depending on the type, may be a radiological hazard or a chemical health hazard, similar to lead poisoning. Uranium gives off alpha particles that do not penetrate skin and pose no health risk when outside the body.

The public is asked to stay out of the area (under surveillance or closed off by guards) (and if true) until a monitoring team, now en route to the accident site, may survey the ground and determine the exact area affected by the accident. Any fragments found near the scene may be contaminated and should be left in place. If fragments have been picked up, avoid further handling and notify (authorities) for proper recovery and disposition.

Periodic announcements will be made as more information is known. It is expected that these precautionary actions will be modified as more information becomes available. A U.S. (Military Service) team from (name of installation) is en route to (has arrived at) the accident scene.

We have no details yet on civilian or military casualties (or give number only of civilian and military casualties) or property damage.

The cause of the accident is under investigation. Further details will be provided as they become available.