

PUBLIC AFFAIRSFigure 4. Contingency Release Number 3**CONTINGENCY RELEASE NUMBER 3**

To notify the general public

“When the Public Is Possibly in Danger”

(Confirms possibility of contamination in a nuclear weapon accident)

(Format of sample release to be used when nuclear weapons or nuclear components have been involved in an accident and the possibility exists for contamination due to fire or explosion, and details are unknown. The release to the general public should only be used after the area has been secured. Release may be modified as shown below depending on audience.)

MINIMUM ANNOUNCEMENT

A U.S. (type) aircraft (other type of transportation) carrying unarmed nuclear weapons or nuclear components crashed (or other circumstances) at (location) at about (time).

The public is asked to stay out of the accident area in the interest of safety due to the possibility of hazard from the accident (or conventional HE detonation) and to avoid hampering recovery operations. (There is no danger of nuclear detonation.)

ADD THE FOLLOWING FOR APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS

Fire, rescue, and other emergency services personnel should approach the area with caution from upwind and be equipped with protective clothing and breathing apparatus. Any local official at the scene of the accident or who has left the site who may provide details on the situation should call this number (_____). Current information from the accident scene will help response personnel respond to the accident and provide additional public safety guidance. If contact with the accident scene is established, determine the following: condition of aircraft and/or vehicle (such as burning, evidence of explosion, or extent of damage); condition of accident site (such as fire or blast damage); or evidence of obvious cargo (such as shapes or containers). Avoid handling any debris at the crash site.

If the aircraft is transporting nuclear weapons containing IHE or weapons overpacked with accident-resistant containers, detonation is much less likely, and the fire should be fought as long as there is a reasonable expectation of saving lives or containing the fire. The weapons, or containers, if exposed, should be cooled with water.

Law enforcement officials should prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the site and picking up fragments of the plane (vehicle) or its cargo. If any fragments have already been picked up, avoid further contact or handling. Notify (authorities) for recovery and proper disposition.

A U.S. (Military Department) 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 property damage.

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