

# **Radiation Survey Meters**





## **Regulatory Requirements**

- No regulatory requirement for you to own a radiation survey meter
- Must have access to a radiation survey meter in the event of an emergency
- Highly recommend you have one or two on hand at all times anyway
- Key tool for the RSO
- Only way to independently verify radiation levels are safe







## **Ion Chambers**



### Pro's:

- 1. Most accurate detector for measuring dose rate
- 2. Best measurement for calculating estimated doses

- 1. Slow response in low background levels
- 2. More expensive
- 3. Need to treat with more care
- 4. Do not measure contamination



## **Micro-R Meters**



#### Pro's:

- 1. Very sensitive and responsive to low background changes
- 2. If equipped with activity readout can measure contamination

## Con's:

 Different response to different energies, not good for true dose rate measurements unless measured energy is equal to energy it was calibrated to (typically 660 keV, Cs-137)



# **Geiger Counter Types**





## **Geiger Counter – Energy Corrected**



#### Pro's:

- 1. GM tube is surrounded by an energy compensation shield to flatten out the detector response to varying energies
- 2. Preferred detector type when establishing dose

- 1. Cost a little more.
- 2. Not the right type of detector for measuring contamination.



## **Geiger Counter – Non Energy Corrected**



#### Pro's:

1. Least expensive GM type of detector

- 1. Can produce a very incorrect reading at lower energies
- 2. Not recommended



# **Geiger Counter – GM Pancake**



## Pro's:

- 1. Great detector for seeking contamination and displaying activity in cpm
- 2. Most will also provide dose rate measurements making them both versatile and affordable

- Very inefficient when measuring gamma dose rate
- 2. Not energy corrected



# **Readout Display Types**



## Digital





# **Operational Conditions**



- 1. Verify your meter is qualified for your operational environment
  - Temperature
  - Pressure
  - Moisture
  - Humidity
  - EMI/FRI Field
  - Ambient Noise Levels
- 2. Rapid changes to temperature or pressure can damage the detector
- 3. Cold weather may require a warm up time before use
- 4. ANSI N42-17 Test Report



# Calibration



- Annual Calibration
- NIST Traceable Source
- ISO-17025 Accredited Calibration Laboratory
- Spare survey meter a good idea
- Store Calibration Records for 3 Years



## **Radiation Meter Storage**



- Scientific Instrument take good care
- Keep meter in well protected area and in good environmental conditions
- Remove batteries if storing for longer periods



# **Radiation Solutions Meter Recommendation**

## Radiation Alert RANGER



- Simple to use and operate
- Digital readout, backlit LCD
- Measures both Dose rate and contamination
- Intuitive user interface
- Affordably priced
- Built in the USA
- Excellent manufacture reputation and support

*Radiation Solutions is an authorized dealer and can supply you with these instruments* 



# Conclusion



- Not required by regulations
- Highly recommend you have two on hand
- Waiting to get one after an incident is a bad strategy
- Very affordable
- Know your problems before inspectors discover them for you
- A primary tool for the RSO

This completes this section. Proceed to the next one when you are ready.

# RADIATION SOLUTIONS