Common Sources of Radiation

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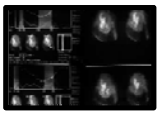
http://orise.orau.gov/reacts/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Terminal Objective

Familiarize the students with commonly encountered sources of radiation

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Enabling Objective

- Become familiar with common uses of radioactive materials and radiation generating devices in industry and medicine

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Questions to Ask Yourself

- What are the most common radiation sources found in my area?
- What sources could likely produce radiation in my community, region, or state?
- Are radiological substances transported through my area?
- What events are most likely to occur?
- What other issues should we consider?

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Where Are Radiological / Nuclear Materials Found?

- Irradiation facilities
- Nuclear reactors
- Isotope production facilities
- Materials testing (sealed sources)
- Materials testing (x-ray devices)
- X-ray and radiotherapy devices (medicine, research)
- Unsealed radionuclides (medicine, research)
- Transportation
- ???

Source: REAC/TS Radiation Accident Registry

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Ionizing Radiation: Medical, Industrial, and Consumer Product Applications

- Radiography
- Analytical
- Irradiation
- Involving unsealed radioactive materials
- Miscellaneous

Safety Series No. 102, "Recommendations for the Safe Use and Regulation of Radiation Sources in Industry, Medicine, Research and Teaching," UNIPUB, 4611-F Assembly Drive, Lanham, MD 20706-4391, STI/PUB/807, ISBN 92-0-123390-6, ISSN 0074-1892

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Ionizing Radiation: Medical, Industrial, and Consumer Product Applications

- ***Industrial radiography***
- ***Beta radiography***
- ***Selective absorption***
- ***X-ray fluorescence***
- Electron capture
- Neutron capture and activation analysis
- ***Gamma backscatter gauge***
- ***Photon switching***
- ***Thermalization of neutrons***
- Selective gamma absorption
- Neutron transmission
- ***Medical diagnostics***
- ***Brachytherapy***
- Radiation beam therapy
- Radiation cross-linking, curing and grafting
- ***Sterilization***
- ***Static elimination***
- ***Smoke detectors***
- ***Lantern mantles***
- ***RTGs***

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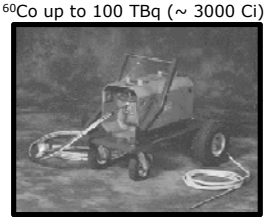
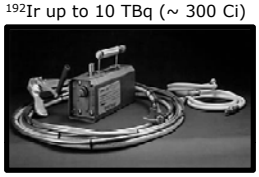
Industrial Radiography

^{60}Co up to 100 TBq (~ 3000 Ci)



^{192}Ir up to 10 TBq (~ 300 Ci)



http://www.spec150.com/products.htm

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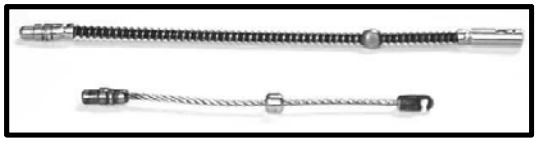
Industrial Radiography

circa 1980s



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Beta Radiography (C-14)

- Used for document authentication
- Contains about 40 kBq (1 µCi)

www.ashmolean.org

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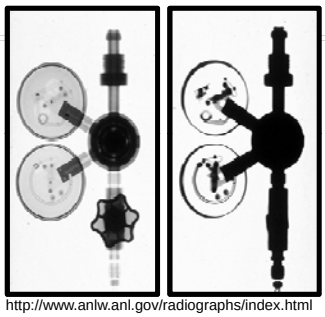
Neutron vs X-ray Radiography

Valve Assembly Radiograph Comparison (selective absorption)

Neutron

- Cf-252 (100 µg to 10 mg)
- Specific Activity is about 535 Ci/g



X-Ray

- Varying x-ray energies, depending on needs

http://www.anlw.anl.gov/radiographs/index.html

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X-ray Fluorescence

40 MBq/1 mCi – 40 GBq/1 Ci

^{55}Fe, ^{238}Pu, ^{241}Am, ^{57}Co

http://www.brandtinst.com/RMD/index.html
http://tech.inel.gov/documents/lpa/LPA-ITSR.pdf

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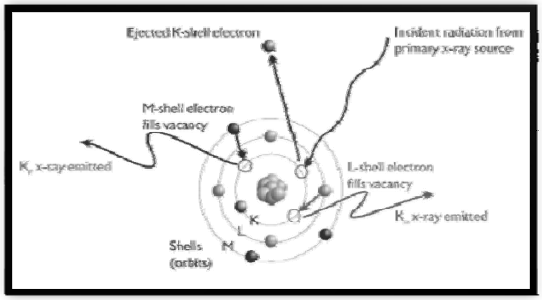
X-ray Fluorescence



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Density Gauges (Gamma Scattering)

^{137}Cs /^{60}Co ~ 20 GBq/500 mCi

http://www.instrotek.com/val.htm

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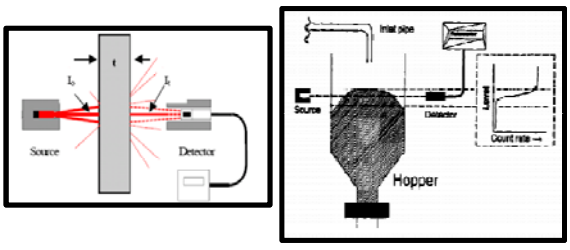
Photon Switching (Level Gauges)

^{241}Am (4 GBq/100 mCi), ^{137}Cs/^{60}Co (2-80 GBq/50 mCi – 2 Ci)



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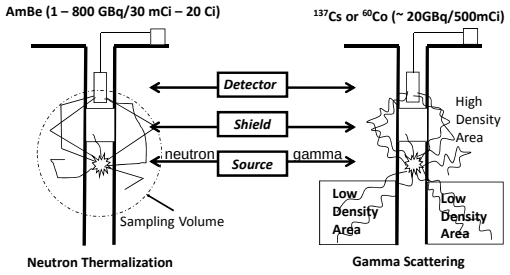
Neutron Absorption and Gamma Scattering



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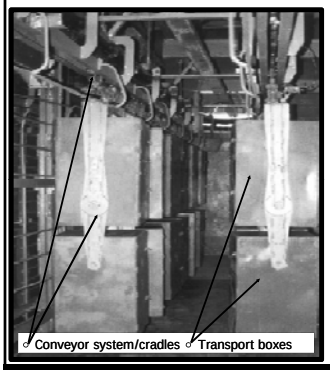
Industrial Irradiators



- The Irradiator Accident at Nesvizh, Belarus – October 26, 1991
- Max ^{60}Co source strength: 30 PBq (Peta = 10^{15}) or 800 kCi.
- Accident source strength: 28.1PBq or 760kCi
- Original design: Peat
- During accident: Syringes and haemostatic sponges
- Operator irradiated for approximately 1 minute
- WB dose ~ 11 Gy
- Died day 113 post event

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Industrial Irradiators

- The orange metal frame is the upper part of the shielding plug for the source rack
- Spaces at both sides of the frame allow the counter-weights to slide to slide down

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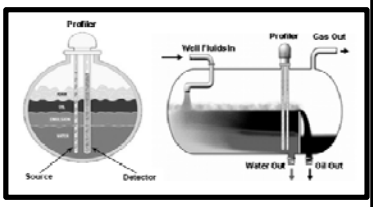
Phase Gauge

- "Phase gauge" for monitoring multi-phase production vessels in oil fields
- A linear American-241 gamma source and a linear detector, enable operators to "see" the mixture separation in "real" time and collect only the oil fraction



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Diagnostic Radiography

Almost Exclusively:

- High Dose Rate
- Very low exposure times
- X-rays (30-130 kVp)

http://www.gehealthcare.com/usen/xr/radio/products/digital_xray/adv_apps/dualenergy.html

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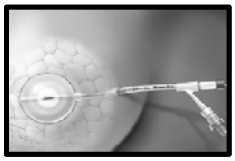
Brachytherapy

http://www.dramendola.com/Mammosite.htm

http://hsc.utoledo.edu/depts/radther/treatmentoption.html

Common regimen:

- ^{192}Ir (185-370 GBq/5-10 Ci) BID
- 5 days (6.8 Gy/680 rads per day)
- Total dose: 34 Gy/3400 rads



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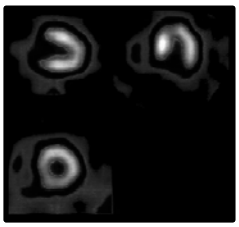
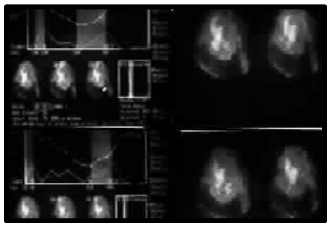
Nuclear Medicine

Diagnostic/therapeutic uses of radiopharmaceuticals
(^{99m}Tc, ^{201}Tl, $^{125, 131}$I, ^{18}F, etc.)





www.ucl.ac.uk www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2005/radiopharmaceuticals.html

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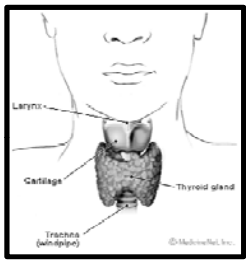
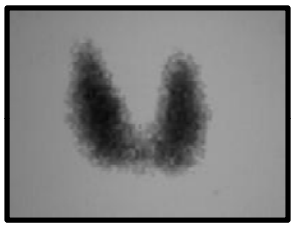
Nuclear Medicine: Thyroid Scan





http://www.medicinenet.com/images/illustrations/thyroid_gland.gif
http://www.emedicine.com/radio/topic315.htm

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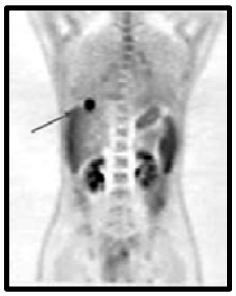
Positron Emission Tomography (PET)



- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) provides physiological activity information not available from traditional imaging technologies, such as MRI, CT and ultrasonography, for anatomical imaging
- Image of the chest and abdomen reveals a solitary focus of cancer within the liver

www.bocaradiology.com/Procedures/PET.html

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Blood Irradiation (Cs-137)

- Irradiation of blood & blood products by gamma rays to eliminate the risk of post transfusion graft versus host disease
- 18.5-111 TBq+ (500-3000 Ci)
- 3-16 Gy/min (300-1600 Rads/min)
- 25-30 Gy (2500-3000 Rads) to the container contents

More info: http://www.nrc.gov/security/nas-facts-sheet.pdf

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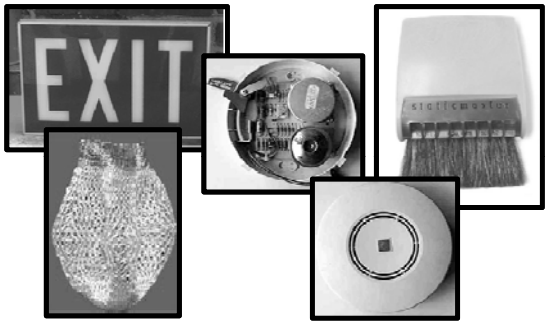
Consumer Products



http://www.orau.org/ptp/collection/consumer%20products/consumer.htm

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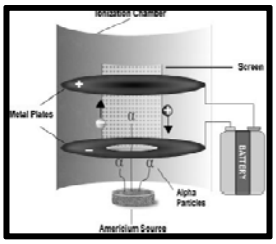
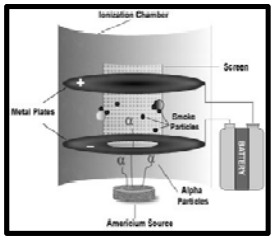
Smoke Detectors





- When smoke particulates enter the chamber, they disrupt the circuit causing the alarm to sound.

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Radioisotope Thermal Generators
(^{90}Sr, ^{238}Pu)

- NASA's New Horizons Deep Space Probe to Pluto
- Radioactive decay generates heat
- Heat energy is then converted to electrical energy

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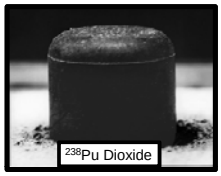
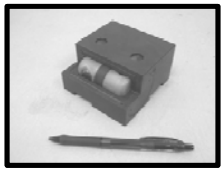
Radioisotope Thermal Generators

RTG Assembly





http://nuclear.inl.gov/spacenuclear/stern.shtml

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radioisotope_thermoelectric_generator

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Radioisotope Thermal Generators

A radiothermal generator shielded and contained inside a typical assembly.

http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Features/RadSources/radsrc_gallery/gallery_1/pages/016.shtml

RTGs that were used to power Soviet-era unmanned light houses

http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Radioisotope_thermoelectric_generator

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What We Have Learned

- Common uses of radioactive materials and radiation generating devices in industry and medicine

Questions?