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EVOLVING CHALLENGES AND COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES



ABSTRACT

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Large-Area Contamination

After the NPP-incident in Chernobyl fissile materials were set free which contaminated parts of Europe. Austria was hit by the radioactive cloud on 29 April 1986. From totally 70 PBq cesium released approximately 1.76 PBq were deposited in Austria.

The contamination was assessed on the one hand through the Austrian radiation early warning system, on the other hand by approximately 700 mobile detection teams from the Austrian Armed Forces, the police and other organizations. Some of these teams were deployed at border-crossing points in order to check entering persons, vehicles and trains.

Especially in cases of a large area contamination (e.g. NPP-accident) NBC defence forces are a vital part of the available intervention resources in Austria. It has to be pointed out that a collective national approach, making use of all available military and civil resources, is a must to deal with such a scenario. Nevertheless it seems probable that all available intervention teams will be massively overwhelmed in case all border-crossing points remain opened.