

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE  
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## AAPM GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: A FOCUS ON RADIATION PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Update of current issues impacting medical physicist practices

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## ADVOCACY

- Challenge: Educating legislators and others on safe and secure use of radioactive materials and benefits of sources in cancer treatment and quality patient care
- Leveraging Resources: Aligning with other stakeholders to maximize impact/Focused outreach
- Support risk-informed, science-based policy that balances benefits of radioisotopes with safe secure usage

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<b>Congress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Physicists/Who are they?/What do they do?</li> <li>Source Security/Safe Handling</li> <li>DOE Low Dose Research/Appropriations</li> <li>Radiation Therapy/Imaging</li> <li>Related Research</li> </ul>	<b>Source Security Working Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering Committee Member of Coalition of Diverse Stakeholders</li> <li>Periodic Meetings/Discussions with Hill Staff regarding Medical Use of Isotopes/Radiation Medicine</li> <li>Capitol Hill Briefing Jan. 15, 2019 with Medical, Industry, and Regulatory Representatives on Beneficial Uses of Radiation</li> </ul>
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<b>Nuclear Regulatory Commission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training and Education</li> <li>Medical Events/Reporting</li> <li>Patient Release</li> <li>Source Security/GAO Report</li> </ul>	<b>Food and Drug Administration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IEC Standards Transition</li> <li>Rulemaking/Classification of Devices/Guidance Documents and Other</li> <li>Network of Experts</li> <li>Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall Tour</li> </ul>
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<b>The Joint Commission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on Proposed Standards</li> </ul>	<b>National Academies of Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The Future of Low-Dose Radiation Research in the United States." Symposium May 8-9, 2019/AAPM Speaker Larry Dauer, Ph.D.</li> </ul>
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<b>State Legislatures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Physicist Licensure (PA and MA bills pending)</li> </ul>	<b>State Regulatory Agencies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QMP/Medical Physicist Practice</li> <li>Training and Experience (e.g., Electronically-Generated Low-Energy Radiation Sources (ELS) for skin cancer)</li> <li>Other safety issues</li> </ul>
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### CONFERENCE OF RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

AAPM Training at  
CIRCPD Annual  
Meeting

Suggested State  
Regulations

Collaboration on  
Medical Event  
Reporting  
Data/Analysis

QMP Registry

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**GAO REPORT  
COMBATING NUCLEAR TERRORISM: NRC NEEDS TO TAKE ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF  
HIGH-RISK RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL  
(GAO-19-258SU: PUBLISHED MARCH 14, 2019)**

- Restricted access
- Text available only to relevant agencies and committees of jurisdiction
- May include information regarding specific threats with different isotopes/ how each might be used in radiation dispersal device/ other technical information
- GAO expected to release public version of report on April 3 or 4— with sensitive information removed

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### POST- SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ENVIRONMENT

- Concerns mount about radiological dispersal device/dirty bomb/radiological exposure device
- Reports of terrorists attempting to acquire sources give urgency to efforts to secure and reduce
- Push for development of non-radioactive alternatives

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### POST-9-11 IMPACT

- U.S. implemented increased physical security program that included existing regulations for safe use with enhanced security

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### NAS: THE CONVERGENCE OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY

- Workshop on convergence of violent extremism and radiological security.
- Scientists, engineers, analysts, and security specialists from six countries December 10-12, 2018, in Helsinki, Finland.
- Third workshop sponsored by National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and Russian Academy of Sciences.
- Regional and national trends: Where extremists and disenfranchised groups could access radiological sources.
- How, why, when, and where radiological terrorism could be a near-term outcome of spread of violent extremism.
- Opportunities for international collaboration to prevent terrorism.

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### GAO LAUNCHES SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT, AND ANALYTICS TEAM (JANUARY 29, 2019)

- Congressional watchdog deepens science and technology capabilities
- Combines technology assessment functions and science and technology evaluation into single office
- Conduct technology assessments and provide technical assistance directly to Congress
- Consider implications and potential policy options of emerging technologies
- Review science and technology programs in federal government

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<b>Radiation Therapy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stereotactic radiosurgery (Co-60)</li> </ul>	<b>Irradiators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blood/ Sterilization/Research Applications (Cs-137, Co-60)</li> </ul>
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**THE THREAT: DIRTY BOMB LEGISLATION**

Limit	Limit use of radioisotopic sources
Mandate	Mandate use of non-radioisotopic alternatives
Restructure	Restructure agency authority over source security and protection

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**NRC 10 CFR PART 37**

- Pre-Licensing Activities including screening/site visits
- Background checks/personnel access
- Documented security programs to address unauthorized access
- License Verification System (LVS)
- National Source Tracking System

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**ADEQUACY OF CONTROLS REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED**

- NRC Has Enhanced the Controls of Dangerous Radioactive Materials, but Vulnerabilities Remain, Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report July 2016
- NRC re-assessment of Category 3 source security and accountability (March 2017)

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**NRC RE-EVALUATION OF CATEGORY 3 SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (MARCH 2017)**

- Staff Memorandum (August 2017)
- License verification confirmation
- Safety and security equipment in place prior to licensing
- No expansion of License Verification System (LVS) or National Source Tracking System (NSTS)

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**POST-GAO REPORT STRATEGY**

- Meetings with relevant committee staff that received restricted report and NRC staff/commissioners

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House	Senate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Appropriations</li><li>▪ Armed Services</li><li>▪ Energy and Commerce</li><li>▪ Homeland Security</li><li>▪ Science and Technology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Armed Services</li><li>▪ Appropriations</li><li>▪ Energy</li><li>▪ Environment and Public Works</li><li>▪ Homeland Security</li><li>▪ Intelligence</li></ul>

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THANK YOU

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