



Radiofrequency and Microwave Exposure Incident Reporting

FACT SHEET 24-030-0615

Radiofrequency (RF) radiation and microwave sources are commonly generated from radar systems, radio sets, satellite communications systems (SATCOM), avionics equipment, diathermy sets, magnetic resonance imaging units (MRI), and by high powered microwave systems such as the Jackal and Calilgo. RF radiation and microwaves are frequently used by signal battalions, field artillery units, physical therapy clinics, and radiology clinics. Systems that use RF radiation and microwaves are usually safe as long as the appropriate safety procedures are followed according to the manufacturer provided operation manuals. However, personnel who operate systems that produce RF radiation and microwaves or who work in areas close to such systems should be aware of the basic reporting procedures for confirmed or suspected injuries.

Reporting Procedures:

Medical Response

Symptoms of microwave and RF radiation overexposure are caused by heating tissue. However, most overexposures to microwave and RF radiation are asymptomatic. If overexposure is suspected, turn off the radiofrequency or microwave source, and do not disturb the original equipment setup pending a follow-up inspection. In addition to suspected overexposures, individuals should report RF shocks or burns. For overexposures and RF shocks or burns, the affected person should seek immediate medical attention within 24 hours and report the incident through the chain of command to the radiation safety officer (RSO). Medical providers should obtain further guidance from the DOD electromagnetic field (EMF) hotline at 1-800-473-3549, DSN 798-3764, commercial 937-938-3764 or email esoh.service.center@wpafb.af.mil. Complete the EMF Injury Reporting Form at <https://hpws.afrl.af.mil/dhp/OE/emfInjury/>. Eye exams are required if overexposure is greater than 5 times the maximum permissible exposure limit (MPE).

Command Response

Once a unit suspects or confirms a RF or microwave incident, they should notify their Command and installation RSO or Safety Officer. The RSO or safety officer will notify the following:

1. Army Institute of Public Health (AIPH)/Nonionizing Radiation Program, DSN 584-3932, commercial 410-436-3932/2331 or 1800-222-9698.
2. The Army Safety Office at DSN 227-1194/1128, commercial 703-697-1194/1128 or DSN 289-0132/703-756-0132 or email usarmy.pentagon.hqda-aso.mbx.army-safety-office@mail.mil. During non-duty hours, contact Army Operations Center at DSN 227-0218, Commercial 703-697-0218.
3. For classified incidents, please contact the Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH) service center at esoh.service.center@wpafb.af.mil.
4. If the incident meets the requirements to file a report utilizing REPORT-IT, the RSO will submit an online report at <https://reportit.safety.army.mil> per MEDCOM Reg 40-42.

Post Deployment:

For Soldiers returning from deployment, question 12 should be completed on DD form 2796, Post Deployment Questionnaire. Notify the installation RSO or Safety Officer.