

# PER-246R Primary Screener/Backpack Refresher Course

## Course Description

This instructor-led, exercise-based course is designed to train the Preventive Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND) mission using portable radiation detection systems (backpacks with a higher level of sensitivity than personal radiation detectors) to perform a preliminary radiological assessment. Responders operate backpacks to detect radiation, verify the radiation alarm, localize the source of radiation, measure the radiation level, and assess the threat status of the situation. Participants employ the backpacks to help adjudicate potential threats involving people, vehicles, packages, and facilities. Additional information regarding PRND operations in maritime environments is available and included as needed. Sealed radioactive sources are used during drills and practical exercises. These sources are intended to simulate types of radioactive material that may be encountered in the public domain. Course content includes a primary screener's role in the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture and the National Preparedness Core Capabilities.

## Course Objectives

- Describe the fundamentals of radiation that apply to primary screeners.
- Operate the backpack under simulated field conditions.
- Employ the backpack to detect, verify, locate, measure, and assess the radiation level of unknown radiological materials in facilities, vehicles, packages, and on people.

## Target Audience/Discipline

Fire Service, Hazardous Materials,  
Law Enforcement, Private Sector/  
Private Corporate Security and Safety  
Professionals, Search and Rescue,  
Transportation Security

Min/Max Enrollment: 16-18

Hours: 4 hours (1/2 Day)

CEUs: 0.70

Format: Mobile

DHS Course #: PER-246

## Prerequisites:

- PER-243 Personal Radiation Detector Course
- PER-246 Primary Screener/Backpack Course

## Eligibility

It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction to select course participants.

## Location

Participant site (as announced.)

## Certificate

A certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the course, granting 0.70 continuing education units (CEUs) through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). A letter verifying CEUs can be provided upon request by contacting CTOS at [ctosnnsa@nv.doe.gov](mailto:ctosnnsa@nv.doe.gov).

## Radioactive Sources

This course uses actual radioactive materials. It is designed and monitored so participants receive only minor radiation doses (lower than a chest X-ray or typical roundtrip airline flight across the U.S.).

## Cost

All training and course materials are provided at no cost to eligible participants

## Compliance

This course complies with ANSI N42.37-2006, "American National Standard for Training Requirements for Homeland Security Purposes Using Radiation Detector Instrumentation for Interdiction and Prevention.

## Enrollment Information

In order to attend a training class delivered by one of the FEMA/NPD training partners, a request must be submitted to the designated U.S. Department of Homeland Security training point of contact. For a Training Coordinator in your area, please call 609.963-6900 ext 6056 or email. [Lpp5942@gw.njsp.org](mailto:Lpp5942@gw.njsp.org)