

Hypothetical Scenario during Dirty Bomb Incident Spreading Contamination

A dirty bomb has exploded a half-mile from your building spreading radioactive dust over a large portion of the surrounding area. Public safety officials issued a shelter in place order for a one-mile radius of the explosion site and told everyone in the risk area to stay inside a building until further notice.

Bill Lewis decided to ignore the warning and drive to get his three-year old daughter from the local daycare. He was stuck in traffic for over an hour in the area where the radiation contamination was the worst. Feeling lucky, he finally used an alley to get around the first responder roadblock where they were in the process of cordoning off the contaminated area. Bill eventually reached his child's daycare two hours after the initial warning. Although he was unaware, both he and his vehicle were heavily contaminated with radioactive dust. Bill rushed into the day care and was met by workers and children. When his daughter saw him, she ran, jumped into his arms and hugged him. In his desire to make sure his daughter was safe, Bill unknowingly contaminated his daughter and the entire day care facility. In addition, the daycare parking lot and all the roads he traveled on were contaminated with radioactive particles. The area around the day care facility was not downwind of the explosion and did not have any radioactive contamination from the original bomb.

Clean up will take months and the biggest concern is the long-term health effects the contamination will have on his daughter and all the other children and workers in the daycare facility.