

TECHNICAL REACHBACK

Reachback is the real-time scientific and technical support provided by on-call subject matter experts (SMEs) to assist on-scene personnel in the evaluation of detection data and resolution of RN alarms. Reachback is necessary as proper source identification and situational assessment may entail many variables and scientific expertise and analysis may not be readily available in the field.

Reachback may be done at the local, state, or federal level depending on the situation. If unable to resolve the alarm locally, or if safety-significant radiation levels are encountered (e.g., greater than 100 mR/hr from an unknown/unidentified object), technical Reachback should be initiated.

During secondary screening operations, Secondary Screeners will first coordinate with local SME agency resources as needed for support, adjudication, and threat analysis. DFD, DDPHE, CDPHE, and other agencies with appropriate SMEs will provide local level Reachback support.

Several agencies are available within the state to provide **Non-Threat related Rad/Nuc detection** technical assistance. The 8th Civil Support Team and DOE Region 6 Radiological Assistance Program can provide result consultation. The CDPHE Radiation Management Unit can provide regulatory and technical support to Colorado agencies regarding licensed use of radioactive material, common sources of non-threat alarms, radioactive material safety and controls, and interpretation of Reachback results for identification of regulatory or public health/exposure concerns. CDPHE provides a 24-hour radiological emergency assistance telephone number for reporting incidents, emergencies, and accidents involving radioactive materials, radiation-producing machines, or vehicles or packages marked "Radioactive" or "Caution Radioactive." This hotline may be utilized for regulatory (non-threat) issues regarding PRND-related Reachback contact.

The CDPHE 24-hour radiation emergency assistance telephone number is **303-877-9757**.

Individual agencies should follow established communication policies and protocols within their organization when technical Reachback is needed. Colorado Reachback agencies will facilitate engagement of the FBI-Denver if a potential threat is identified, and County/State public health agencies if a potentially unsafe public exposure condition is encountered or suspected.

All partner agencies will use DOE as National Level Reachback (202-586-8100) using one of the follow four methods only:

- Online. Triage website is: <https://triageweb.doerer.us>
- Triage Windows Desktop Client
- Email. Send to TRIAGE.DATA@HQ.DOE.GOV and TRIAGE.DATA@LLNL.GOV
- Android and iOS phone applications.

National-Level Reachback is required when the following triggers are met:

- Neutrons are detected and are not associated with licensed or manifested materials
- A radiation source is suspicious or cannot be identified or authenticated
- Special nuclear material is present, suspected, or cannot be ruled out and there is no legitimate reason for its presence

If an alarm cannot be adjudicated with technical Reachback, additional detection assets, such as alternate types of primary detection equipment and/or higher resolution identification devices, may need to be deployed to resolve the conditions. Several Federal and State agencies are available with advanced detection equipment to support alarm resolution, such as the FBI- Denver, DOE Region 6 Radiological Assistance Program, and the Civil Support Teams. The technical Reachback organization and/or the FBI should determine the needed assets.