Ensuring the safety of JRCS responders in the event of a nuclear disaster, the JRCS prepared as follows:

1. Development of a manual for relief activities during a nuclear disaster

At the time of the Fukushima Daiichi accident, the JRCS did not have any equipment/materials and safety standards for relief activities during a nuclear disaster in place for its relief teams. This forced the JRCS relief teams to temporarily have restraint in their relief activities. Based on this experience and for possible future nuclear disasters, the JRCS developed “Manual for Relief Activities under Nuclear Disasters,” which states a course of action and a code of conduct to secure the safety of JRCS responders during their relief activities.

This manual states that (1) relief activities shall be conducted outside of restricted areas; (2) a personal cumulative radiation dose shall not exceed 1 mSv during an activity period; (3) radiation emergency medical care advisors shall be placed in the event of a nuclear disaster for safe and proper relief activities by the responders in a radiation environment; and (4) education and training about radiation protection shall be provided for JRCS relief team members.

2. Deployment of radiation protective equipment/materials for responders

In order to secure the safety of JRCS responders who will likely engage in relief activities in a radiation environment in the event of a nuclear disaster, the JRCS deployed radiation-protective equipment and materials.

They include: (1) digital personal dosimeters (to measure radiation dose of each responder); (2) ionization box survey meters (to measure air dose rate in activity areas); (3) GM survey meters (to measure body surface contamination); and (4) radiation protective suits (to prevent radioactive materials from going into the bodies).

These equipment and materials have been deployed to the JRCS HQ, JRCS block representative chapters and JRCS chapters across Japan.