



JRCS Nuclear Disaster Response Basic Training Session for the Second Block (FY 2016)

On February 22, 2017, the Japanese Red Cross (JRC) Tokyo Chapter held a FY 2016 JRCS Nuclear Disaster Response Basic Training Session (Nuclear Disaster Training Session) for the Second Block at the chapter.

Based on the lessons learned from the response by the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, this training has been held as one of the JRCS's efforts to strengthen its nuclear disaster preparedness since FY 2014. By the end of FY 2015, a total of four training sessions were held, and in FY 2016 the sessions were held for the Fourth and Sixth Blocks, and the latest one was the seventh training session. To enable JRCS staff to act quickly when a disaster occurs near their JRC chapters and hospitals, the JRCS divides the country into six operational blocks (zones). Starting from FY 2016, the JRCS has positioned its response to nuclear disasters as part of its existing disaster relief services, and the training session has been organized by each block to tailor to the location of each nuclear power plant and the situations of each JRC chapter and hospital. This training session targeted physicians, radiological technologists, nurses and administrative staff working at JRC hospitals and staff of JRC chapters in the Second Block (Prefectures of Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa and Niigata), who are JRCS relief team members.

The training program includes explanation of [the JRCS Nuclear Guidelines for Preparedness, Response and Recovery](#), basic knowledge about radiation, collaboration with radiation emergency medical care advisors in the event of a nuclear disaster, practice for using radiation protection equipment and case studies in groups. In this session in particular, Dr. Kiyoshi Endo of JRC Mito Hospital, a JRC hospital designated as a radiation emergency hospital, located in the Second Block, lectured on the current situation of JRCS's measures against nuclear disasters around the Tokai No.2 Power Station such as (1) JCO Criticality Accident in Tokaimura and JRCS's relief activities; (2) Environment around Tokai No.2 Power Station; and (3) Community Disaster Management Plan (Nuclear Disaster Evacuation Plan) of Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture. In the latter half of the training, the participants were divided into several groups and worked on planning for relief activities of a relief team based on an assumed scenario of an accident at the Tokai No.2 Power Station located in the Second Block area and evacuation order zones designated by Mito City based in JRC Mito Hospital. Director General Watanabe of JRC Fukushima Hospital, who served as a facilitator, explained his experience as a member of the relief team at the time of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, which made all the participants reaffirm the importance of preparing for a nuclear disaster.

[Training program \[PDF\]](#)

Comments from some participants:

Radiological technologist: Through the training, I learned how to measure the dose of radiation exposure at the actual accident scene and how to use measured figures, and I also understood what I could do as a radiological technologist at the scene. Going forward, I'd like to understand the characteristics of a dosimeter and acquire skills to measure doses accurately and understand more about how to act based on the results of dose measurement.

Nurse: In a group work, we calculated radiation doses based on an assumed nuclear accident and considered a suitable place for activity, which made me have a clear image of developing an activity plan. I felt that if I act according to guidelines, I won't feel worried. I think I need to be prepared with protection materials and a personal dosimeter to carry with me, as well as relief materials for future natural disasters.

Nurse: There is a nuclear power plant in the prefecture my hospital is located, so I felt close to this training. I learned that the power plant in Ibaraki prefecture was at risk just like Fukushima power plants had at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake. There is a big difference between preparing for risk knowing it and preparing for risk without knowing it, so even in this sense, the training was a valuable experience for me.



Administrative staff: I learned what JRCS relief teams do in the event of a nuclear disaster and how to calculate cumulative radiation doses as well as about the system and roles of radiation emergency medical care advisors. I hope that a follow-up meeting will be held for the participants of this training in the future.

The Nuclear Disaster Response Basic Training Sessions were held for the Second, Fourth and Sixth Blocks in FY 2016, and will be held for the remaining blocks—the First, Third and Fifth Blocks—in FY 2017. The JRCS will continue to train and develop staff who can respond to nuclear disasters.