



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

On January 18, 2017, the Japanese Red Cross (JRC) Fukuoka Chapter held a FY 2016 JRCS Nuclear Disaster Response Basic Training Session (Nuclear Disaster Training Session) for the Sixth 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. This was the sixth training session following the one held for the Fourth Block in FY 2016. 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 with the previous session, 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 Sixth Block (Prefectures of Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Okinawa), 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. Tadashi Sakai of JRC Karatsu Hospital, a JRC hospital designated as a radiation emergency hospital, located in the Sixth Block, lectured on the circumstances surrounding the Genkai Nuclear Power Station, including: (1) Overview of the Genkai Power Station; (2) Community Disaster Management Plan of Saga Prefecture and Nuclear Disaster Evacuation Plan of Karatsu City; and (3) Functions of JRC Karatsu Hospital as a base hospital in the event of a nuclear disaster. In addition, starting from this session, a new lecture has been added on judgment criteria for emergency categories and their terms to enable JRCS relief teams to conduct relief activities in key areas of nuclear disaster response designated by the government and take protective actions. 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 Genkai Nuclear Power Station located in the Sixth Block area and evacuation order zones designated by Karatsu City based in JRC Karatsu Hospital.

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

Comments from some participants:

Radiological technologist: I thought it is important to practice again and again in an assumed disaster scenario until I can do it automatically. I'd like to share what I learned from the session with those who couldn't join the session.

Physician: I didn't have any grounding of nuclear disasters, so the session was very helpful to me. In a group work, I found it difficult to calculate doses and felt that I need to get used to it a little bit more. If I fully understand what I learned from this session, I'll be able to work as a member of a relief team when a nuclear disaster happens.

Nurse: Through the simulation of a nuclear accident, I learned the importance of ensuring the safety of relief team members including the measurement of radiation doses and their judgment at actual scenes. I haven't yet participated in actual relief activities, but through this session I learned a little about radiation and relief activities. It was a great experience for me.



Administrative staff: I felt that Workshop 1: How to use a digital personal dosimeter and put on/take off a protective gear is particularly important because it is the basis for ensuring the safety of relief team members, selecting an activity area (an area suitable for activity) and evacuating relief team members. I thought the training session should be held at a JRC chapter in the prefecture where a nuclear power plant is located, which can be a local Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, because in that way the training could offer a more hands-on experience based on the local characteristics of the area and the scale of the nuclear power plant.

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.