

Longshore Safety Tip

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Customs Radiation Portal Monitors

You will soon see a device that looks like this at the out gates at your terminal. It is a Customs Radiation Portal Monitor!

***BASIC
SECURITY
AWARENESS
ON THE
WATERFRONT***

A truck passes through one of the radiation portals at the port of Newark N.J.



What is a Radiation Portal Monitor?

A radiation portal monitor is a detection device that provides Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with a passive, non-intrusive means to screen trucks and other conveyances for the presence of nuclear and radiological materials. These systems are capable of detecting various types of radiation emanating from special nuclear materials, natural sources, and isotopes commonly used in medicine and industry.



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Are these systems similar to X-rays?

Portal monitors are NOT similar to X-rays. They are not imaging systems that transmit energy and then form an image from that energy. *The portal monitor is a passive system that “reads” energy emitted by radioactive sources that happen to pass near it.* The system is very similar to a radio receiver in that it responds to certain types of energy and provides an indication to the operator of the strength of the energy received.

Are portal monitors safe? Do they expose people to radiation? Do they emit radiation?



Portal Monitors are SAFE! *Portal monitors do not emit ANY radiation.* They are completely safe for anyone passing by them, including children and pregnant women. Again, portal monitors are passive “detectors” of radiation, not emitters of radiation. Portal monitors are very common in hospitals and other industries.



Remember: Legitimate routine cargo such as bananas, ceramic tiles, aircraft parts, Canadian kitty litter (clay) and medical isotope treatments will set the detector off. At the international border with Canada, the alarm rate is about 1 in 400-500 vehicles.

What do I do, if there is a Security Incident in or near the Customs Radiation Portal? Do we have to evacuate?

FOLLOW YOUR SUPERVISOR’S INSTRUCTIONS

Your supervisors will direct the appropriate response in coordination with direction from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Be Alert! - Be Vigilant!

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