



PO Box 843 Needham MA 02494
Phone: 781-449-2214
Fax: 781-449-6464
Email: rad-sci-health@wpi.edu
<http://cnts.wpi.edu/RSH>

WORLD-WIDE RADIATION DOSES

Global average radiation levels from various sources, in **millirem per year**.

(The millirem is a measure of radiation dose used in U.S. regulations and practice. The corresponding metric unit used in other countries is the microSievert per year. One microSievert equals one-tenth of a millirem.)

<u>RADIATION SOURCE</u>	<u>MILLIREM PER YEAR</u>
Nuclear power and associated activities:	less than 1
Fallout from Chernobyl reactor accident (peak in 1986, now about 1)	4
Fallout from worldwide nuclear weapons tests (peak in 1960s, now about 1)	10
Medical diagnostics (not including high-radiation therapy)	40
Natural background radiation from cosmic rays, soil, etc.	from 80 to 70,000

ADAPTED FROM Z. JAWOROWSKI, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RADIATION, TEHRAN, IRAN, OCT 18-20, 2000

BASED ON DATA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION (UNSCEAR 2000)

See: [http:// cnts.wpi.edu/RSH/docs/HANDOUTS/WWradDose.pdf](http://cnts.wpi.edu/RSH/docs/HANDOUTS/WWradDose.pdf)

Dr. Theodore Rockwell
Vice President
301-652-9509
email: tedrock@starpower.net

Independent Individuals Knowledgeable in Radiation Science and Public Policy

Committed to Change Radiation Science Policy in the Public Interest