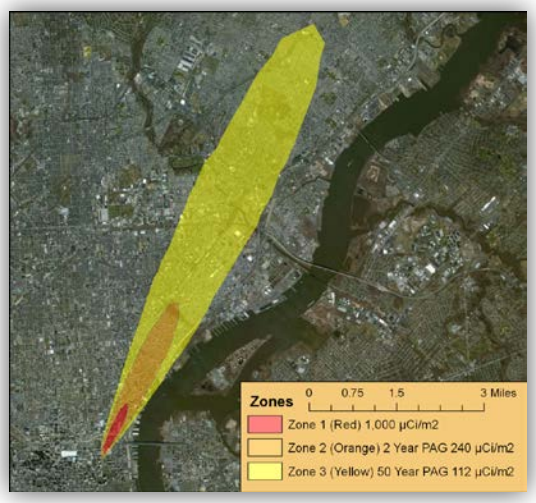
www.epa.gov/nhsrc

technical BRIEF

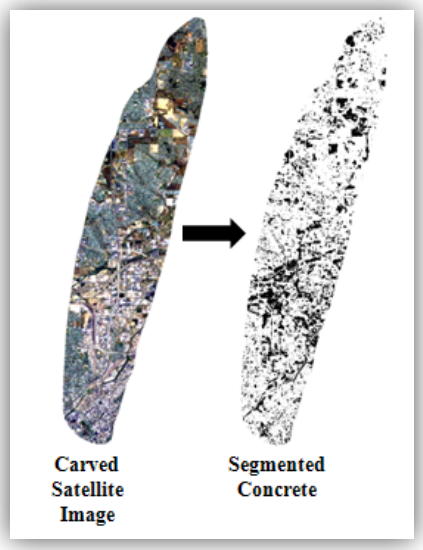
WASTE ESTIMATION SUPPORT TOOL (WEST)

Management of waste from a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) incident would likely constitute a significant fraction of the total remediation cost and effort. The U.S. EPA's RDD Waste Estimation Support Tool (WEST) is a planning tool for estimating the potential volume and radioactivity levels of waste generated by a radiological incident and subsequent decontamination efforts. WEST supports decision makers by generating a first-order estimate of the quantity and characteristics of waste resulting from a radiological incident, and allows the user to evaluate various decontamination/demolition strategies to examine the impact of those strategies on waste generation.



Systems Approach for Wide-Area Remediation

- Initial development of remediation strategies for a wide-area radiological incident will start immediately following the contamination event
- Identification of the materials found in both the indoor and outdoor portions of the affected areas developing approaches for optimal cleanup of those surfaces and materials
- Decontamination and waste management processes are linked
- Prioritize remediation processes as soon as possible



WEST Components

- ArcGIS scripts
  - Define contaminated areas and extent of contamination
- FEMA Hazus-MH Software
  - Estimate building counts, square footage, and composition
- Suite of applications
  - Identify outdoor media based on satellite imagery
- Excel spreadsheet
  - Estimate quantity, characteristics of the resulting waste
  - Examine impact of various remediation scenarios on waste

This tool will aid responders and decision makers to implement an integrated response by effective analysis of many competing considerations, with a goal of a rapid, effective remediation that minimizes economic and health impacts to the affected community.

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