RADIATION CONTAMINATION VERSUS EXPOSURE

EXTERNAL CONTAMINATION

External contamination occurs when radioactive material comes into contact with a person's skin, hair, or clothing.

- **RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL**
  - IN THE AIR
  - SOLID
  - LIQUID

INTERNAL CONTAMINATION

Internal contamination can occur when radioactive material is swallowed or breathed in.

- Internal contamination can also occur when radioactive material enters the body through an open wound.
- Different radioactive materials can accumulate in different body organs.

RADIATION EXPOSURE

Another word for radiation exposure is irradiation.

- Radioactive materials give off a form of energy that travels in waves or particles.
- When a person is exposed to certain types of radiation, the energy may penetrate the body.

A person exposed to radiation is not necessarily contaminated with radioactive material.

For a person to be contaminated, radioactive material must be on or inside of his or her body.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation

When a person has an x-ray, he or she is exposed to radiation but is not contaminated.