



**Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB)
Consumer Protection Division**

**October 16, 2026
Radiation Section**

Licensing and Registration Activities

License Type	Companies	Sites
X-Ray Registrations	20,746	27,302
Laser	4,855	5,722
Mammography	658	658

Registration Completed Actions: June 2026 – August 2026				
	New	Renewal	Amendment	Termination
X-Ray	758	123	902	439
Laser	428	52	124	77
Mammography	17	38	179	6
Total	3,143	1,203	1,205	522

RAM Licensing actions: June 2026 – August 2026				
	New	Renewal	Amendment	Termination
General License Acknowledgment	4	0	10	4
RAM	16	28	345	20
Waste Shipper/Transporter	0	8	1	0
RAM Reciprocity	11	0	1	0
Sealed Source and Device	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	448	36	357	24

Industrial Radiographer Certification	
Application for Exam	294
Trainee Application	182
Renewal Application	82
Non-Texas Radiographer	12
TOTAL	570

Rulemaking

- **§289.130 Radiation Advisory Board**
 - Moves rule from §289.130 to §3.7.
 - This rule was presented at the October 15 HHSC Executive Council meeting.
 - The proposed rule will be published on October 23, 2026, in the Texas Register. The public comment period will close on November 23, 2026.
 - The effective date is expected to be March 3, 2027.
- **§289.228 Radiation Safety Requirements for Industrial Radiation Machines**
 - The draft introduces requirements for whole-body security scanners used by detention facilities and removes the language for minimal-threat machine exemptions.
 - This rule was presented at the October 15 HHSC Executive Council meeting.
 - The proposed rule will be published on October 23, 2026, in the Texas Register. The public comment period will close on November 23, 2026.
 - The effective date of the rule is expected to be March 3, 2027.
 - Dr. William Pate and Sandra Ramirez were assigned as Subject Matter Experts for this project at the April 2026 TRAB meeting.
- **§289.229 Radiation Safety Requirements for Accelerators, Therapeutic Radiation Machines, Radiation Therapy Simulation Systems, and Electronic Brachytherapy Devices**
 - The definition for “Remote Operation” was revised to clarify that it applies to exposure to a patient and not to the interpretation of an image. §289.229 prohibits the remote operation of a therapy system.
 - A reference to a repealed rule was corrected. §289.229 was revised to reference TOC 602 for the Licensed Medical Physicist scope of practice.
 - The schedule for this project skipped the public comment period for the draft version.
 - The proposed rule was published on September 18, 2026, in the Texas Register. The public comment period will close on October 19, 2026.
 - The effective date is expected to be March 3, 2027.
 - Dr. Mark Harvey and Sandra Ramirez were assigned as Subject Matter Experts for this project at the April 2026 TRAB meeting.
- **§289.256 Medical and Veterinary Use of Radioactive Material**
 - 256 is revised in response to a petition for rulemaking.
 - The petition requested a reduction in the training requirements for an Authorized User for veterinary use of radioactive material.
 - The revision reduces the number of hours required for training and experience to 80 hours for most authorized uses unless the required training for human use was less than 80 hours.
 - This project focuses on the petition request.
 - The draft comment period ended August 31, 2026.
 - The rule will be presented at the February 18, 2027, HHSC Executive Council meeting.
 - The proposed rule will be published on January 22, 2027, in the Texas Register. The public comment period ends February 22, 2027.
 - The effective date of the rule is expected to be May 25, 2027.

- Licensees will be able to request an exemption from the current training requirements through the Radioactive Materials Licensing group until the proposed rule is final.
- Dr. David Dutton and Sandra Ramirez were assigned as SMEs for this project in the July TRAB meeting.

Inspection Data

	FY26 Q1 (9/1/25 – 11/30/25)		FY26 Q2 (12/1/2025 – 2/28/2026)	
	# Ins	# Insp with Violations	# Ins	# Insp with Violations
RAM	155	27 (17%)	142	24 (17%)
X-Ray	809	319 (39%)	758	315 (42%)
X-Ray Remote	218	90 (41%)	211	99 (47%)
Mammography	208	40 (19%)	160	31 (19%)
Laser	14	13 (93%)	19	14 (74%)
	FY26 Q3 (3/1/2026 – 5/31/2026)		FY26 Q4 (6/1/2026 – 8/31/2026)	
	# Ins	# Insp with Violations	# Ins	# Insp with Violations
RAM	122	19 (16%)	146	36 (25%)
X-Ray	1060	422 (40%)	855	366 (43%)
X-Ray Remote	287	140 (49%)	129	58 (45%)
Mammography	186	48 (26%)	162	35 (22%)
Laser	21	19 (90%)	27	24 (89%)

Technical Staff Vacancies

Position	Location	Anticipated Fill Date	Notes
Mammography Inspector/Certification Reviewer	DFW	12/1/2026	To be posted
Mammography Inspector	San Angelo	12/1/2026	To be posted
X-ray/Mammography Inspector	Amarillo	TBD	Reposted
X-ray Inspector	Austin	11/1/2026	Interviewing
X-Ray Inspector	Houston	10/1/2026	Filled
X-Ray Inspector	Houston	11/1/2026	Interviewing
X-Ray Inspector	Arlington	11/1/2026	Posted
Remote X-ray Inspector	Austin	11/1/2026	Posted
RAM Inspector	Arlington	11/1/2026	Candidate Selected
RAM Inspector	San Antonio	1/1/2027	To be posted
RAM Inspector	Corpus Christi	1/1/2027	To be posted
Health Physicist I (RAM Licensing)	Austin	TBD	Screening

Health Physicist I (RAM Licensing)	Austin	TBD	Screening
RAM Rule Coordinator	Austin	8/1/2026	Filled

Staff Training and Activities

- X-Ray trainers conducted a presentation for Tarrant County College's Dental Program on August 24, 2026, in Hurst, TX.
- Two RAM inspectors attended the NRC H-108 Inspection Procedures course from August 10-14, 2026.
- A RAM Inspector and a RAM License Reviewer attended the NRC S-201 Materials Control, Security Systems & Principles course from August 17-21, 2026.
- Joann Hartchcock attended the Organization of Agreement States (OAS) Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN, from August 31 – September 3, 2026.
- Rick Croy attended the Texas Nuclear Summit from September 21-23, 2026.
- Five staff members attended the CTOS Response to Radiological/Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Incidents Course in Mercury, Nevada, in September and in early October.

Compliance Activities

July 2026 to September 2026:

- Orders: 96
- Administrative Penalties: \$ 249,380.00
- Revocations:
 - 0 Radioactive Material licenses
 - 0 X-ray registrations
 - 0 Laser registrations

Mammography Branch

- One vacancy for an MQSA inspector/certification reviewer
- One vacancy for an MQSA inspector

X-Ray Inspections

- Four vacancies for X-Ray Inspectors.
- One vacancy for a Remote X-Ray Inspector.

Emergency Response Activities

South Texas Project Nuclear Power Plant (STP)

- On July 9, DSHS held the Midterm Planning Meeting for the Hostile-Action-Based (HAB) exercise scheduled for October 21. Staff from STP, DSHS, Matagorda County, the Texas Division for Emergency Management (TDEM), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) attended.
- On August 12, STP held an Incident Command Post (ICP) Tabletop exercise (TTX), attended by staff from STP, Matagorda County Emergency Management, Matagorda County Sheriff's Office, US Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others. Two DSHS team members attended, including the DSHS ICP Liaison.
- The dress rehearsal for the STP HAB exercise was held on September 9, and 47 Radiological Emergency Response Team members participated.

Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CPNPP)

- On June 10, 2026, CPNPP hosted the 2026 TCEQ Tabletop Exercise to discuss response operations due to a dam leak at the plant. Staff from CPNPP, TCEQ, DSHS, TDEM, and County EMCs attended.
- On July 1, 2026, DSHS held the Initial Planning Meeting for the 2027 CPNPP Ingestion Pathway Exercise (IPX). Representatives from CPNPP, FEMA, NRC, TDEM, DOE, FRMAC, EPA, TXAGRILIFE, Hood County, Somervell County, and DSHS stakeholders were in attendance.
- An MS-1 Drill Dress Rehearsal was conducted on August 13, 2026, at Lake Granbury Medical Center (LGMCM) in Granbury, TX, in preparation for the FEMA-graded exercise in September. LGMCM staff participated, CPNPP staff controlled the drill, and a DSHS representative observed.
- On August 24, 2026, DSHS CPNPP IPX planners held an IPX Outreach planning meeting. DSHS CPNPP IPX Planners and the CPNPP Emergency Manager attended.
- On August 27-28, the CPNPP Planner attended ICS 400 training in Temple, TX. The training was provided to 20 personnel from Fire, EMS, Police and State emergency response agencies in Bell County and surrounding areas.
- Assisted the STP Planner with the STP HAB dress rehearsal planning and attended all training sessions with the individual teams identified for the exercise.
- Supported different events during the World Cup.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

- Local briefings were conducted with representatives from Gaines County. This included providing an instrument to the city of Seagrave, TX, and training on the use of the Ludlum 26-1.
- The WIPP program is currently working on exchanges and calibrations of survey instruments along the WIPP route (I-20).
- On Thursday, August 20th, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) completed one reverse shipment from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) inter-site shipment. This was the first shipment in the reverse direction, going West to East on the WIPP route.
- A member of the WIPP team assisted in a radiological incident in Midland, TX.
- A member of the WIPP Team conducted just-in-time training on the Ludlum 26-1 during the radiological Incident in Midland, TX. Training was provided to 6 Hazmat firefighters from Midland County.
- The WIPP Team participated in Longhorn Thunder: Silent Thunder Table-Top Exercise (TTX) in Austin, TX, on August 26, 2026.
- The members of the WIPP Team attended the West Central Texas Emergency Preparedness Conference (WCTEPC). One WIPP team member presented on "The training available on the DOE and WIPP transportation Route."
- The WIPP Team participated in supporting different events during the World Cup.

Pantex/Agreement in Principle (AIP)

- Shay Christian participated in World Cup coverage in Arlington on July 6, 2026.
- Jordan Coulson joined DSHS as Emergency Planner for Pantex. He completed DSHS onboarding and Pantex New Employee Orientation.
- The Pantex quarterly environmental sampling was completed on July 21, 2026.
- Federal Grant Training was completed in July 2026.
- Shay Christian participated in the Local Emergency Preparedness Conference with 15 Emergency Response and County officials on July 23, 2026.

- The team attended the local FBI Critical Infrastructure Conference with 50 other members of emergency response, county, and city officials.
- The team completed the CBRNResponder nationwide drill during the week of August 24, 2026.
- The team attended the Pantex ERO Drill on August 26, 2026, at the Pantex Alternate EOC. They tested the ability to complete a TEAMS chat meeting with DSHS offsite staff during the exercise.
- The team provided training for Panhandle RAC staff regarding assembly and use of a Portal Monitor on September 10, 2026. Five RAC staff members were trained.
- The AIP Quarterly Meeting was held on September 9, 2026.
- The team attended the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Conference on September 10, 2026.
- The team participated in the NRC AI workshop on September 15, 2026.
- The team completed the final AIP grant requirements. The grant was completed on September 30, 2026. A New AIP 5 Year Grant begins October 1, 2026.
- Detection instrument calibrations were performed on 67 instruments from July-September 2026.

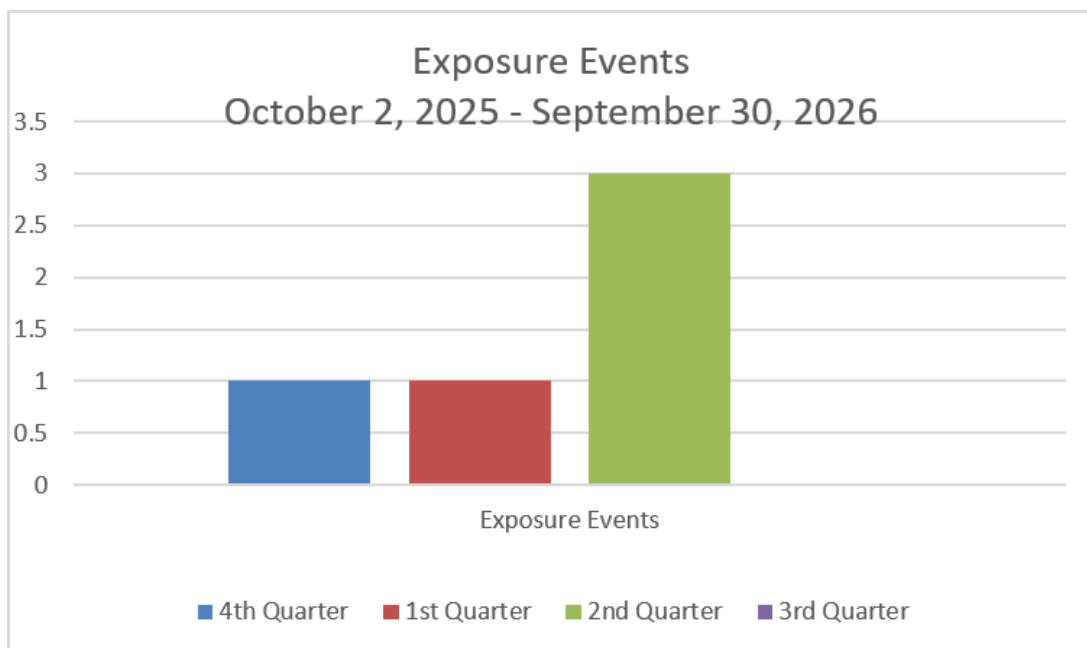
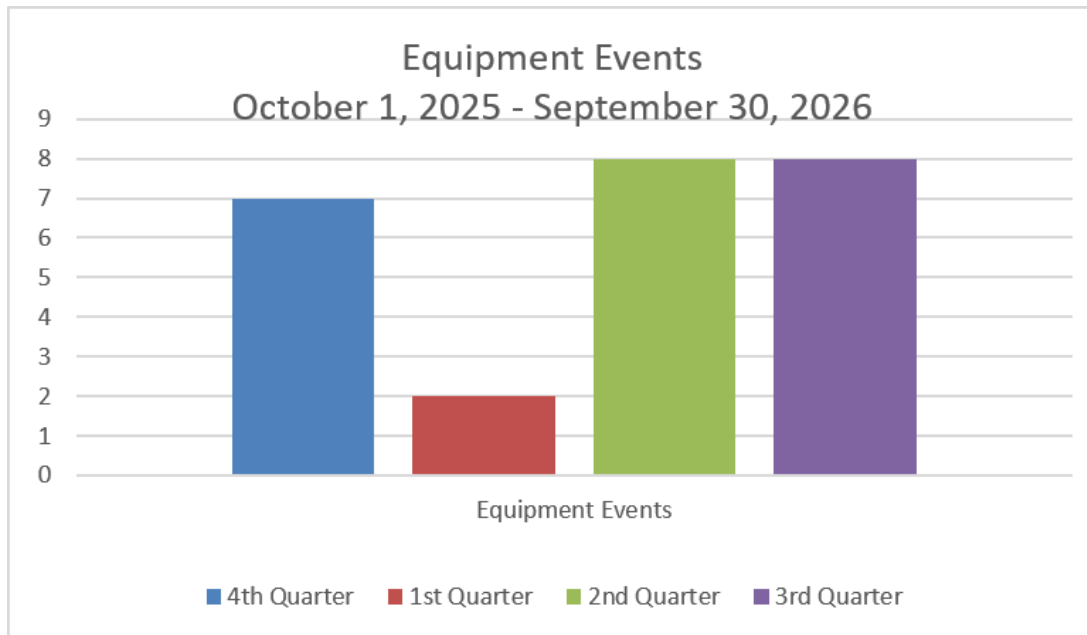
Counterterrorism / Radiological WMD

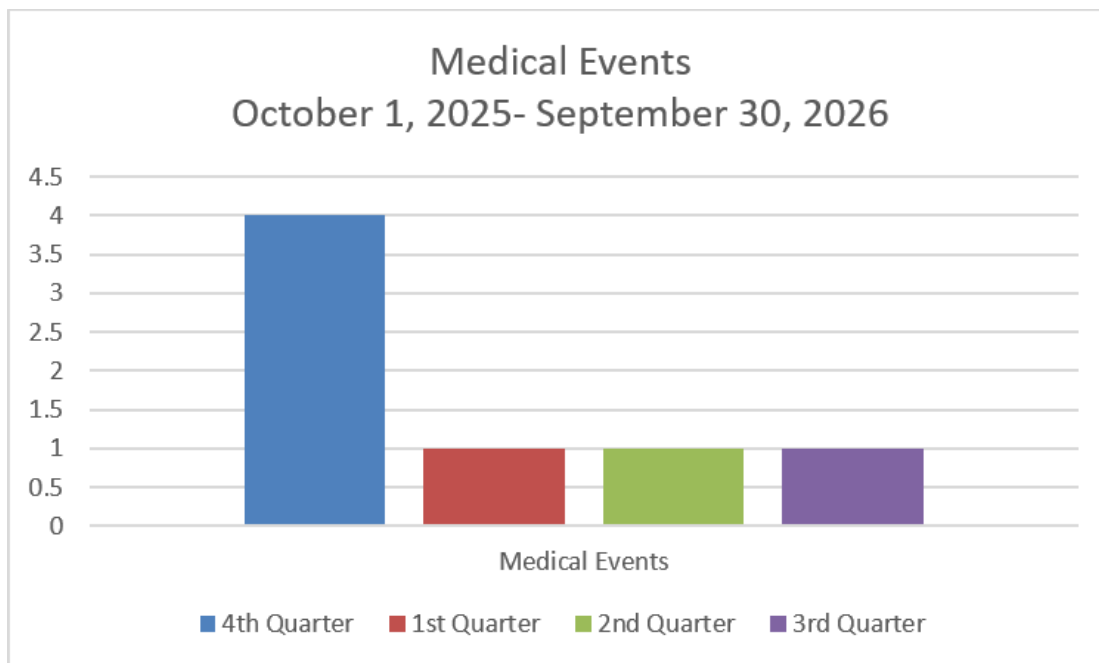
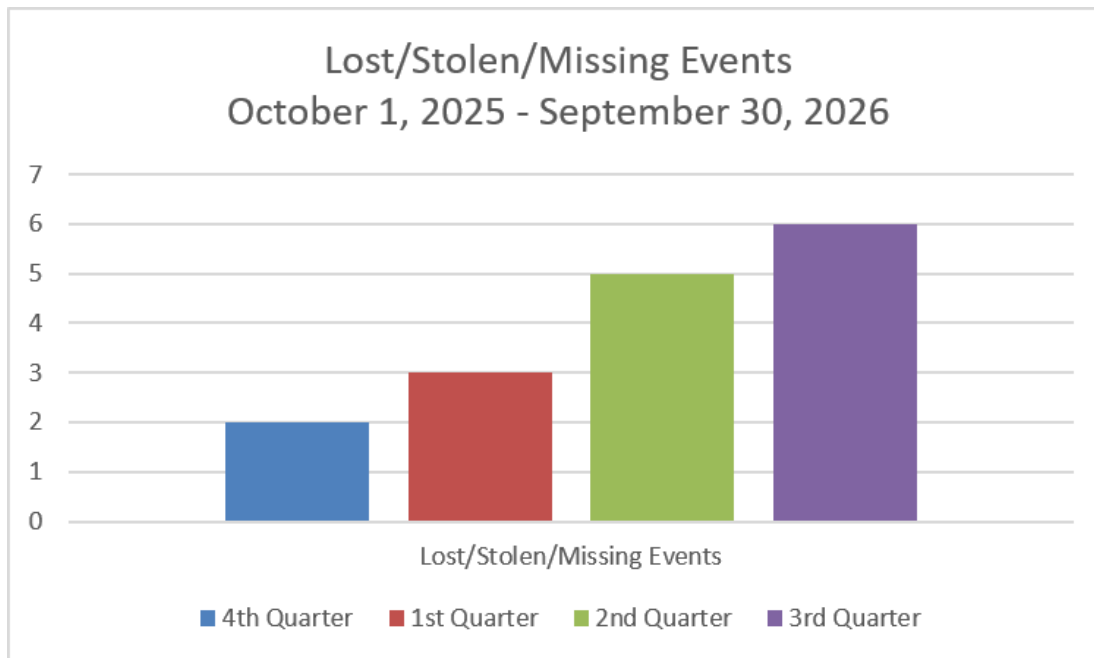
- DSHS Radiation Section was involved in supporting emergency response activities for the 2026 World Cup Soccer Event. This included the Dallas-Arlington and Houston areas during the June-July 2026 matches. DSHS Radiation Section was involved in providing staff to the Joint Operations Center and Tactical Operations Center in the Dallas-Arlington area of responsibility and providing staff to the Joint Hazards Assessment Team in the Houston area of responsibility. Additionally, DSHS Radiation Section provided staff to support the State Operations Center and State Medical Operations Center. Staff was also used to provide staff for reach-back for information, stand-by teams in case of deployment, and providing operational reporting to management. DSHS Radiation Section worked with DPS Radiation/Nuclear Detection Unit and Federal Partners to adjudicate all radiological anomalies during the World Cup matches.
- DSHS Radiation Section participated in the 3-day Curious Disintegration Exercise that occurred on August 25-26, 2026, in the Houston area. Curious Disintegration Exercise is an interactive exercise that educates response personnel in the aftermath of an attempted or successful radiological terrorism incident. It is designed to enhance cooperation between federal, state, and local law enforcement, and improve their ability to jointly respond effectively to a radiological incident within their jurisdiction. DSHS Radiation Section Staff acted as Exercise Observers monitoring the various training and exercise actions by the training attendees.
- DSHS Radiation Section was an active participant in the Longhorn Thunder weapons of mass destruction (WMD) tabletop exercise that occurred in Austin on August 26, 2026. The Longhorn Thunder Tabletop Exercise focused on a terrorist created WMD/radiological incident affecting the University of Texas at Austin and the greater Austin community.
- DSHS Radiation Section was successful in procuring federally funded training for the Response to Radiological/Nuclear WMD Incidents course that is held at the National Nuclear Security Site (NNSS) in Nevada. 10 DSHS Radiation Section staff members will be attending the fall training courses.
- The DSHS Radiation Section continues to monitor Houston's Securing the Cities (STC) Program. The STC Program seeks to reduce the risk of a successful deployment of a radiological/nuclear (R/N) terrorist weapon against a major

metropolitan area in the United States by establishing a sustainable capability to detect, analyze, and report nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control within their jurisdictions. The STC grant is used to train and equip personnel to be proficient in the use of R/N detection equipment and guided by detection and response protocols. This program is now statewide, working with the Texas Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement, and first responders to train and equip personnel on the Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND) issued equipment. Clint Taylor and Rae Walker monitor this program and participate in monthly meetings, scheduled training, and exercises.

Incident Investigations

The graphs below reflect the numbers and categories of incidents received during this reporting period.





Medical Event Summaries:

- (Non-reportable) On September 17, 2026, the licensee notified the agency regarding two breast localization seeds that may have ruptured while inside patients. The two seeds, both manufactured by Best Medical and identified as model 2301 types, were each selected from the same Lot (Number 62880) and contain 0,253 millicuries (mCi) of iodine-125 (I-125) with an original activity date of August 17, 2026. For the first patient, the licensee reported that on August 15, 2026, mammogram reviews by the radiology team were interpreted as showing that the seed inserted into the patient was fractured into two fragments. Best Medical was notified but disagreed with the licensee's radiology team's assessment. The manufacturer suspected the patient may

have another object or material in her breast tissue that was not the broken seed. The Radiology team, however, out of caution, proceeded with providing beta blockers to the patient 4 hours and 30 minutes after discovery and conducted urine bioassays over a period of 48 hours. All test results returned with no leakage of I-125 observed. The licensee stated that the patient is scheduled for seed removal on September 18, 2026, and will provide an update on its findings regarding the condition of the seed. Regarding the second patient, the licensee reported that on September 17, 2026, the patient had a similar procedure performed and mammogram images were interpreted as showing the inserted seed had fractured. The licensee has pulled all the needles at the site from use and has reported the matter to Best Medical. The patient was provided with iodine blockers about an hour after discovery and will undergo bioassays before the seed is removed from her body.

List of Acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIP	Agreement in Principle
CPNPP	Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant
CRCPD	Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors
CTOS	Counterterrorism Operations Support
DSHS	Department of State Health Services
DOE	Department of Energy
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERO	Emergency Response Organization
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigations
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FRMAC	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
HAB	Hostile Action Based
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
ICP	Incident Command Post
IPX	Ingestion Pathway Exercise
LGMC	Lake Granbury Medical Center
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
MQSA	Mammography Quality Standards Act
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NNSS	National Nuclear Security Site
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OAS	Organization of Agreement States
ORNL	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
PRND	Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection
RAC	Regional Advisory Council
RAM	Radioactive Material
RAP	Radiological Assistance Program
RERT	Radiological Emergency Response Team
R/N	Radiological/Nuclear
RSO	Radiation Safety Officer
STC	Securing the Cities
STP	South Texas Project Nuclear Power Plant

TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TDEM	Texas Division of Emergency Management
TOC	Texas Occupations Code
TRAB	Texas Radiation Advisory Board
TTX	Tabletop Exercise
WCTEPC	West Central Texas Emergency Preparedness Conference
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
WMD	Weapon of Mass Destruction