

April 18, 2017

Statement from Dr. Redlener on the Escalation of Tension with North Korea and Citizen Preparedness for Nuclear Threats

According to Dr. Irwin Redlener, Director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia's Earth Institute, "The confrontation with North Korea over its obsession with missiles and nuclear weapons needs to be addressed. But it also serves as a reminder that the threat of nuclear weapons being used in an international conflict – or by a terrorist organization – has been a persistent concern for decades."

"This is a good time to think about what citizens and disaster response agencies need to know in the event of a nuclear detonation in their community. Some basic information and understandings could save countless thousands of lives in the event of a catastrophic use of a nuclear weapon."

"Here's what people should know. A detonation of a nuclear weapon in an urban area would be instantly lethal for many people in the immediate vicinity of the explosion. But hundreds of thousands of people outside the most deadly circle of destruction could save their own lives by:

1. Knowing the signs of nuclear explosion.
2. Seeking immediate shelter (optimal shelter can be described)
3. Staying put in shelter for 24-48 hours
4. Waiting for officials to announce its safe to leave shelter
5. Heading in direction recommended by officials"

Dr. Redlener's TED Talk –
How to survive a nuclear attack: <https://youtu.be/gCPH4p-Zp1Q>

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