



FACT SHEET

Information for community members regarding safety of missing radiological capsule

This fact sheet addresses some of the commonly asked questions regarding the safety of the missing radioactive capsule and any impacts it may have had on the community or the environment before it was found and recovered.

Are there any communities located near where the device was found?

No. The capsule was found 74km south of Newman along the Great Northern Highway. There are no communities along this stretch of road. The nearest parking bays are 23 km north and 8 km south of the location where the capsule was found.

Was the capsule damaged?

No, the capsule was recovered intact and there has been no damage to the outer surface. These capsules are designed to be very tough. Tests have been done to confirm that there was no damage to the capsule.



Figure 1. The capsule onsite before it was recovered

Has there been any contamination of the area where the capsule was found?

No, there has been no contamination to the area where the capsule was found. Tests have been done to confirm that there is no contamination from the capsule. After the capsule was removed the area was surveyed and there are no elevated levels of radiation.

If there was contamination, who is responsible for remediation?

As there was no contamination found no environmental remediation is required.

What testing will be done to measure any potential environmental impacts from the capsule?

The capsule has been tested to confirm that there is no damage, and that there is no potential for contamination of the site where it was found.

Is there a risk to travellers through the area from elevated doses of radiation?

No, there is no risk to people who travelled through the area due to elevated levels of radiation.

What levels of radiation would travellers through the area have been exposed to?

Two scenarios have been considered, driving past the source at highway speeds, and stopping by the capsule for 10 minutes.

If you were driving past the source at highway speeds there would not be any elevated dose levels. This is because the time spent close to the source would be so short.

If you pulled over onto the side of the road near the source and stood 1 m away from it for 10 mins the dose would be approximately 0.26 mSv which is equivalent to 10 days of natural background radiation. There is no elevated risk of cancer from a dose of this level.

The nearest parking bays are 23 km north of the capsule and 8 km south of the capsule. These are both far enough away from the capsule that there is no elevated dose at the parking bays.