OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,

PUDUCHERRY

No.132/OW/IGP/2025 **DATED:25.08.2025.**

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR PUDUCHERRY POLICE: RESPONSE TO RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR DISASTERS

1. Introduction:

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) aims to establish a structured and comprehensive framework for the Puducherry Police to follow in the event of a radioactive or nuclear emergency, thereby ensuring a timely, coordinated, and effective response that prioritizes public safety, security, and environmental protection.

The primary objectives of this SOP is to guide the Puducherry Police in initiating swift and appropriate actions to secure affected areas, assist in the evacuation and protection of civilians, maintain public order, support inter-agency coordination with relevant disaster response bodies, and implement crime prevention measures in the context of a potential or confirmed radiological or nuclear emergency.

2. Immediate Actions upon Receiving Information:

i) Alert and Acknowledge

Upon receiving verified information or credible alerts regarding a potential or confirmed radioactive or nuclear emergency from any authorized source, the Police Control Room (PCR) must be immediately notified, and Trained Personnel or nearest NDRF team through District Collector shall be dispatched without delay to assess the situation and establish initial control of the site.

ii) Initial Response and Site Security

Upon arrival at the incident site, the first responding police officers from local police station must immediately establish a secure perimeter around the affected area, which shall include the demarcation of at least two clearly defined zones: an**Inner Perimeter** that contains the suspected or confirmed radiation source and is restricted to entry only by trained and equipped responders, and an **Outer Perimeter** to limit public access, control the movement of bystanders, and enable coordination with other emergency services.

iii) Evacuation and Movement Control

The police shall work in close coordination with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Fire and Rescue Services, and NDRF/SDRF units to carry out orderly, safe, and rapid evacuation of civilians from potentially contaminated areas while simultaneously implementing strict traffic control measures to prevent unauthorized entry into exclusion zones and to facilitate the unimpeded movement of emergency response vehicles and personnel.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

i) Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP)

The Senior Superintendent of Police (L&O) and the Senior Superintendent of Police (Karaikal), shall assume the role of the Incident Commander in their respective areas unless and until relieved by a competent authority.He/She is responsible for overseeing police operations at the site, ensuring coordination with all concerned departments, maintaining law and order, and authorizing any official communication to the media or public regarding the incident.

ii) Superintendent of Police (SP) – Sub-Division In-Charge

The **Superintendent of Police (SP)** of the concerned sub-division shall act as the **Sub-Division In-Charge**, responsible for executing field-level directives from the SSP and ensuring smooth ground operations. The SP shall

- Supervise perimeter control, evacuation, and traffic diversion.
- Liaise with local civic authorities and medical teams.
- Conduct periodic briefings for field personnel and issue situation updates.
- Monitor safety and welfare of deployed police staff.

iii) Station House Officer (SHO) or Officer-in-Charge

The local Station House Officer or Officer-in-Charge shall establish and operate an Incident Command Post (ICP) at a safe distance from the disaster site and shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate and detailed log of all police activities, deployments, and communications, ensuring proper resource allocation, and initiating response actions in accordance with the chain of command and guidance from the Superintendent of Police.

iv) Traffic Police

Traffic Police shall be tasked with immediate deployment of barricades, diversion signs, and checkpoints to isolate affected routes, ensure a clear corridor for emergency response vehicles, and assist in redirecting civilian traffic to safe zones, while ensuring that the public remains informed, calm, and compliant with evacuation or detour instructions.

v) Puducherry Armed Police (PAP)/ India Reserve Battalion (IRBn)

Upon orders from the SSP or CMT, **IRBn reserve units/ PAP units** shall be mobilized to augment perimeter control, evacuation operations, and reinforcement of sensitive locations. IRBn personnel shall be equipped with basic protective gear and briefed on radiation hazard protocols prior to deployment.

vi) Police Wireless Unit

A dedicated **Wireless Communication Team** from the Police Wireless Unit shall establish an independent **Secure Communication channel at** the Incident Command Post.The team shall ensure uninterrupted and encrypted radio communication between PCR, field units, and command staff.The Wireless Team shall also coordinate with other departmental control rooms (e.g., Fire, Health, NDRF) to facilitate inter-agency communication.

vii) Coordination with Other Agencies

The Puducherry Police shall actively collaborate with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Fire and Emergency Services, Health Department, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), by establishing a unified command structure and information-sharing protocol that facilitates swift decision-making, minimizes duplication of effort, and ensures a harmonized and effective multi-agency response to the radiological or nuclear emergency.

viii) Personal Safety Measures for Police Personnel

Police personnel who are deployed at the scene of a suspected or confirmed radiological event must be thoroughly briefed on potential radiation risks, equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks, and protective clothing, and explicitly instructed not to touch, move, or investigate any suspicious metallic objects, containers, or sources that could potentially emit harmful radiation unless properly trained and authorized to do so.

In addition, officers must avoid consuming food and water in or near the contaminated area, and must follow all decontamination procedures prescribed by health or radiation safety authorities immediately after exiting the inner perimeter.

ix) Communication and Public Information Dissemination

Concerned District Public Relations Officer (PRO) shall be responsible for coordinating with the District Collector and Disaster Management Authority to ensure that all information released to the public or media is accurate, verified, and approved, while also countering the spread of misinformation, rumours, or panic through proactive communication strategies and the use of reliable official channels.

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x) Documentation, Investigation, and Evidence Preservation

The police shall ensure the preservation of the integrity of the incident scene for the purpose of technical investigation, including proper marking, sealing, and protection of the site in coordination with radiation safety authorities; all visual evidence, such as photographs, videos, and site sketches, along with eyewitness testimonies, call logs, and chain-of-custody documentation, must be systematically collected and securely archived for further forensic and legal review.

xi) Post-Incident Activities and Demobilization

Following the containment or neutralization of the radioactive hazard and upon receiving clearance from the appropriate regulatory bodies, police officers shall assist in a phased withdrawal of the emergency cordons, provide support for rehabilitation efforts led by civil authorities, contribute to post-disaster assessments and reviews, and offer counselling or medical evaluations for any officers potentially exposed to radiation.

xii) Training, Capacity Building, and Preparedness Measures

The PTS shall regularly conduct training workshops, simulation exercises, and mock drills in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), NDRF, and local emergency services to build familiarity with radiological hazards, ensure familiarity with detection and safety equipment, and develop standard protocols that can be quickly activated in the event of an actual radiological or nuclear emergency.

Each police station must also maintain a current inventory of protective equipment, response manuals, hazard maps, and updated contact lists of key emergency responders to facilitate immediate and efficient mobilization.

7. Disclaimer :

It is made clear that this Standard Operating Procedure is exclusively for Internal smooth functioning of the Police Department.

Ajit Kumar
25/8/20

(Dr. AJIT KUMAR SINGLA, IPS)
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
PUDUCHERRY

To

1) The Director General of Police, Puducherry.
2) The Deputy Inspector General of Police (L&O/AP&T), Puducherry.
3) The Senior Supdts. of Police, HQ/C&I/L&O/KKL/Traffic, Puducherry and Commandant/IRBn.
4) All SPs
5) Secretary to DGP.
6) All Inspectors/SHOs/Incharge of OPs.
7) I/c Record Section, The Web officer, Puducherry.