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# **Building Community Resilience: *Emergency Preparedness and Involvement of Interested Parties***

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# Successful emergency management

- Nuclear or radiological emergencies can be disruptive events
- A **successful emergency management**:
  - **Protects effectively** people and the environment
  - **Facilitates the recovery** of individuals, and the overall community, in a manner that sustains their physical, emotional, social and economic well-being

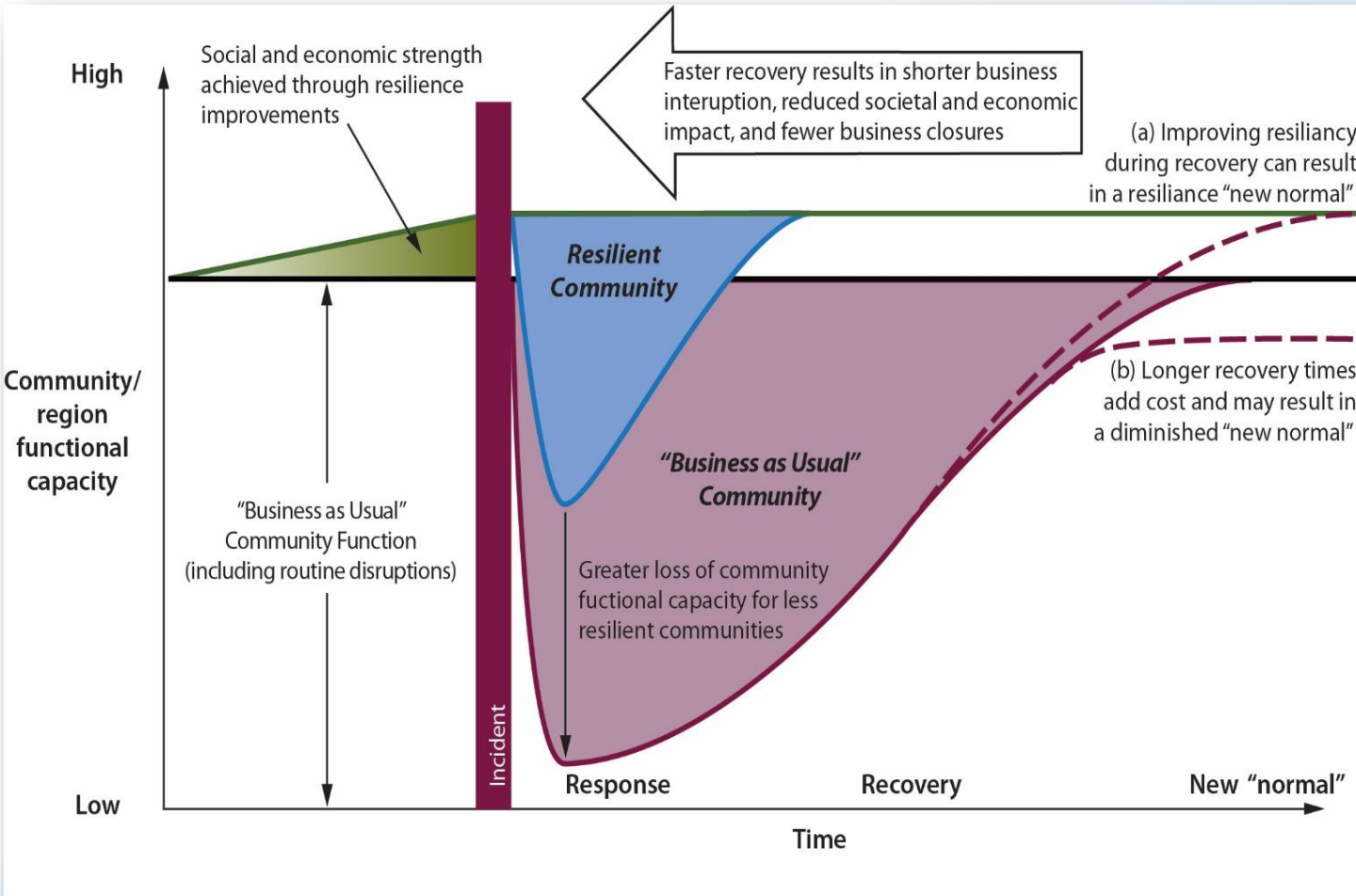
*“To prepare, to the extent practicable, for the resumption of normal social and economic activity.”*

IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 7

# Community Resilience: What is it?

*“The capacity of a community to be able to recover quickly and easily from the consequences of a nuclear or radiological emergency.”*

- \* Draft **Safety Guide on Arrangements for the Termination of a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (DS474)**  
Expected endorsement: Q4 2017



## New Normality

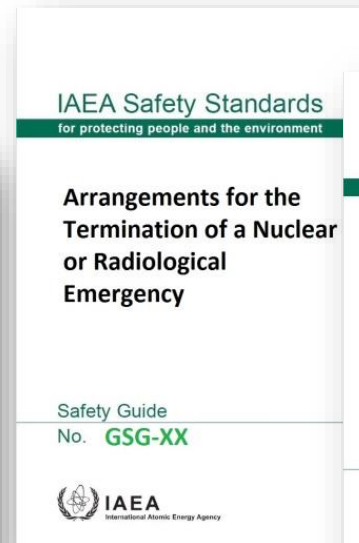
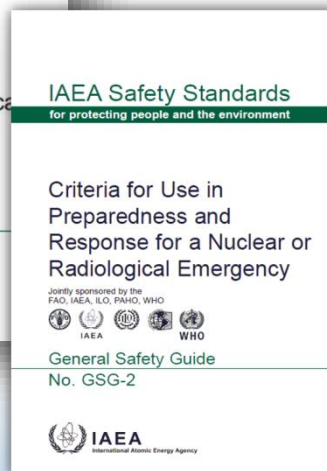
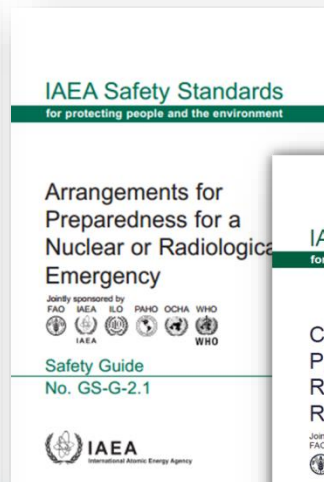
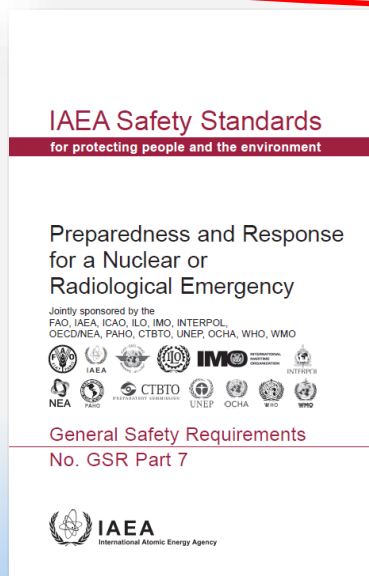
The objective of the long-term recovery is to return the community to an acceptable normality in the most expedient manner, with a goal to re-establish and sustain the local economic viability.

Model: Dr. Mary Ellen Hynes, DHS (2001); Blair Ross, ORNL; CARRI 2008 ©

**Community resilience is a measure of an effective recovery (NCRP Report 175, 2014).**

# How do we build the community resilience?

- Maintaining **robust emergency preparedness arrangements** with account taken of **existing international standards**
  - Involving all response organizations at all levels
  - Consulting relevant interested parties

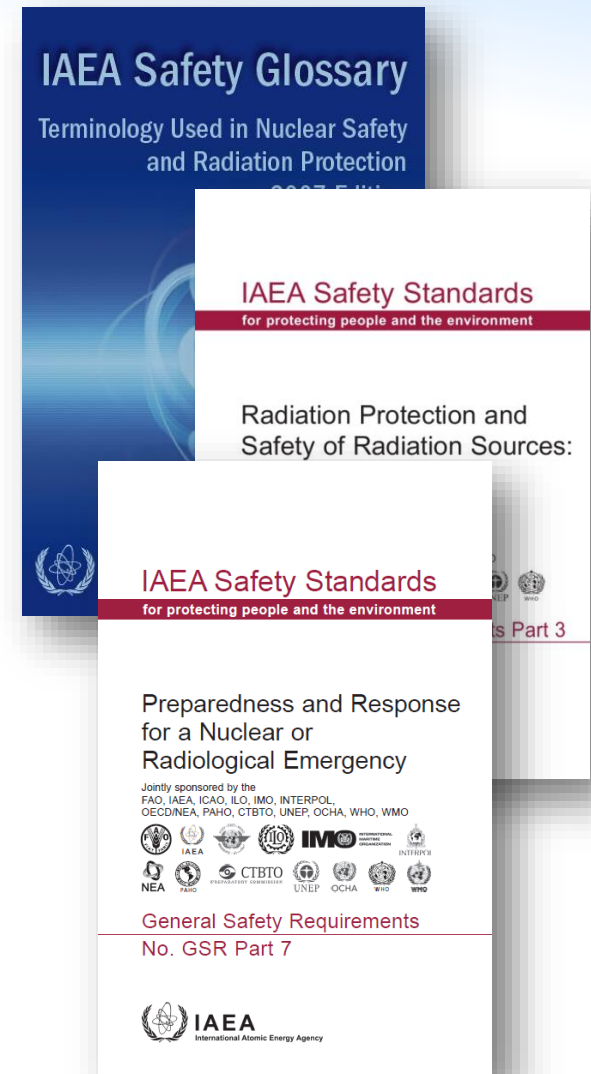


# Who are interested parties?

- “*person, company, etc., with a concern or interest in the activities and performance of an organization, business, system, etc.*”

i.e. = stakeholder

- e.g. potentially or actually affected populations, trade unions, industry, media, etc.



# Benefits of consulting interested parties in EPR

- Increases trust, credibility and societal acceptance
- Fosters relationships with community leaders
- Allows the community's capabilities as well as needs to be understood
- Enhances the community resilience to nuclear or radiological emergencies

# Considerations for an effective consultation mechanism

- Identify the legal basis for consultation
  - Including where the responsibility lies for consultation
- Define clear objectives of the consultation
- Identify who relevant interested parties are
  - At preparedness stage and during the response
  - Ensuring balanced representation among relevant parties
- Identifying effective means of consultation, e.g.
  - Public meetings, formal hearings, focus groups (may depend on stage and response phase)



# Considerations for an effective consultation mechanism

- Elaborate transparent process for obtaining feedback
  - Mechanism for the different types of documents (e.g. internet, public documentation posted to key groups)
  - Directly or through representative consultative bodies
  - Appropriate sign-off mechanism for key documents
- Plan means for reviewing and assessing the result of the consultation, including:
  - Authorities and expertise involved in the process
  - Mechanism for obtaining their input

# Considerations for an effective consultation mechanism

- Apply the results of the consultation in decision making processes
  - Process for announcing final decision
- Effective consultation is based on effective communication:
  - Communicate openly and transparently any relevant information
  - Include clear explanation-using plain language (e.g. that places health hazards in perspective) of any technical information

# Stages of consultation

General process  
& to support  
effective  
consultation



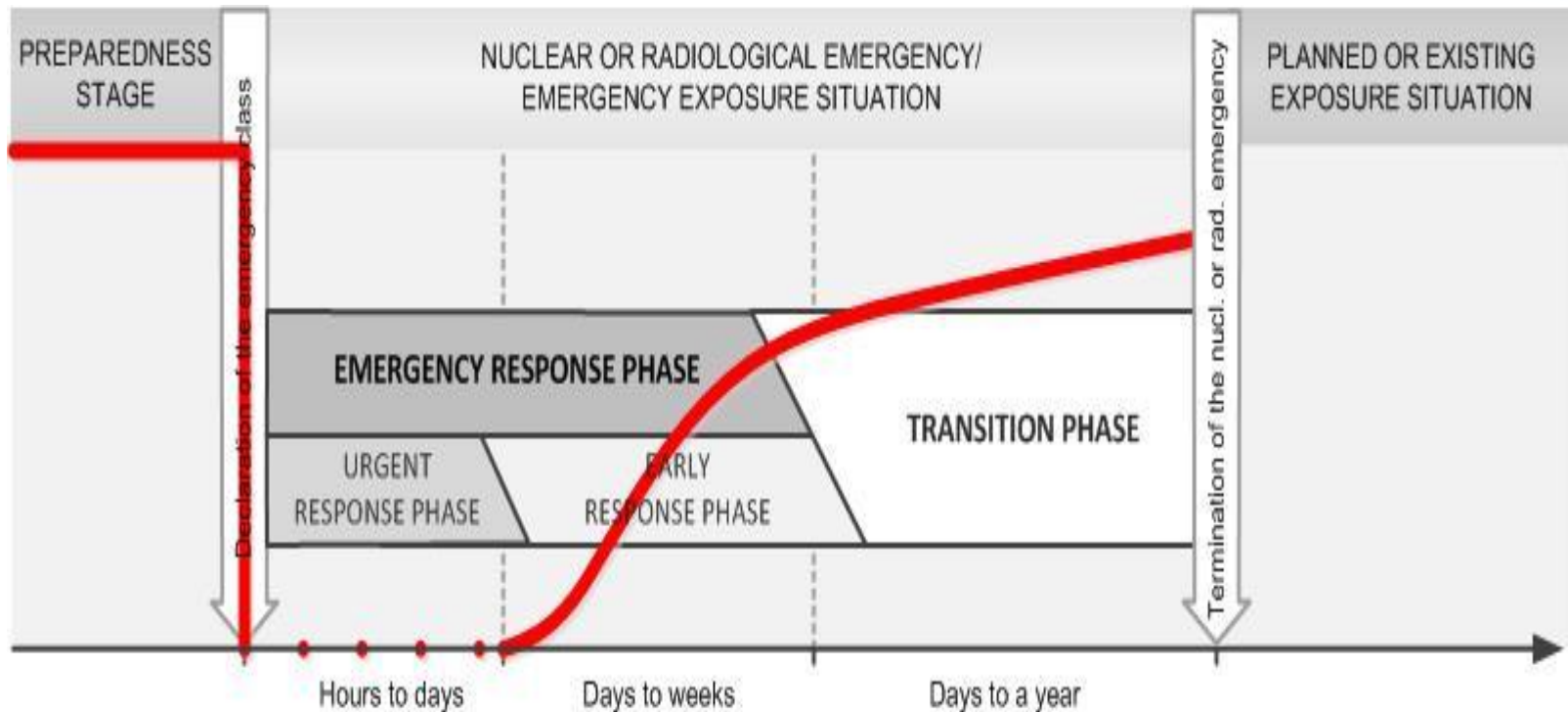
Different processes  
for those with, e.g.  
(a) role in response  
(b) general interest

Necessary  
process for  
transparency

Remains  
responsibility of  
authorities but  
scope of input  
should be clear

Scope depends upon situation (stage or phase of the emergency) and timescale available

# Involvement of interested parties during different stages & phases

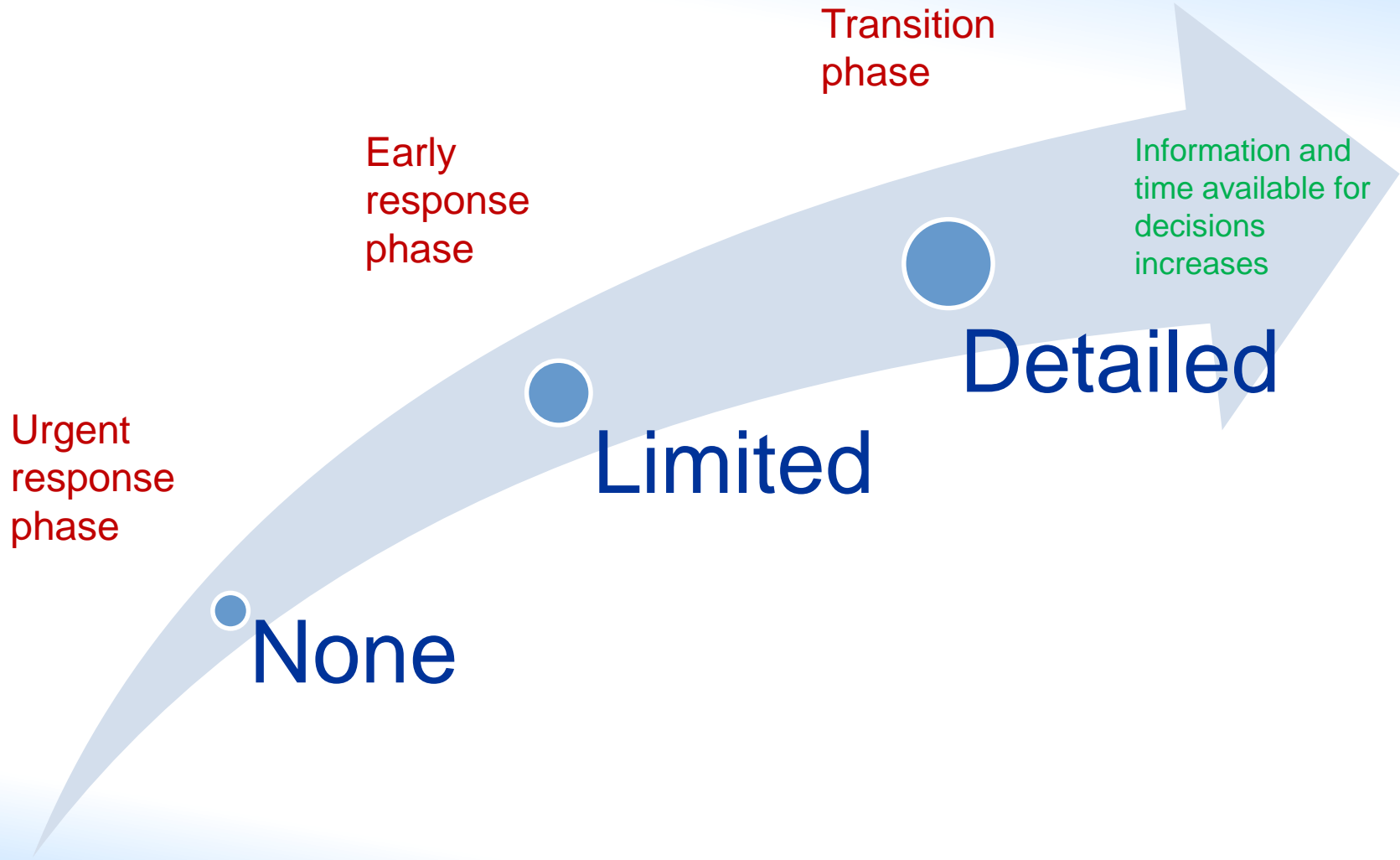


\* Draft **Safety Guide** on **Arrangements for the Termination of a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (DS474)**

# Consultation during response

- The process of consultation with relevant interested parties should not compromise the timely and effective implementation of the strategy aimed at protection of the public
- Decision-making should remain with the responsible authorities

# Consultation during response



Urgent  
response  
phase

None

Limited

Detailed

Early  
response  
phase

Transition  
phase

Information and  
time available for  
decisions  
increases

# Considerations for consultation during response

- Public opinion and media response need to be monitored to ensure concerns are addressed promptly
- Recognition that ‘false facts’ are likely to be circulated and will need correction
- Consultation based on effective communication mechanisms founded on
  - Transparency
  - Inclusiveness
  - Shared accountability
  - Measures of effectiveness
  - Timely accommodation of feedback

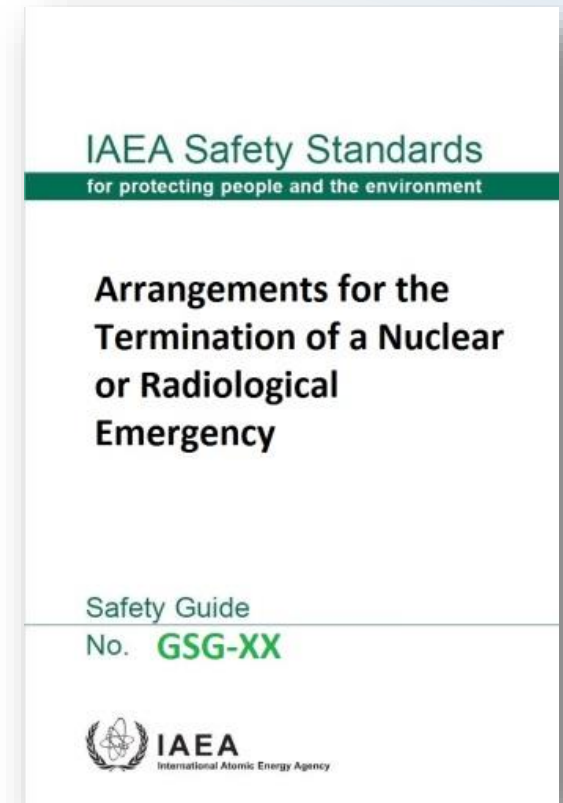
# In conclusions..

- In preparedness, consultation on the overall protection strategy and associated emergency arrangements is essential
  - Improves robustness of EPR framework
  - Facilitates public trust and social acceptance
  - Builds community resilience
- In response, consultation with interested parties should be such that does not compromise the strategy to protect the public
- Decision-making should always remain with responsible authorities



# Finally...

- As simple and clear as it may sound, ensuring profound consultation with relevant interested parties is a complex and time-consuming process
- Further guidance and recommendations to be soon made available including associated training





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*Let's work together to build our  
communities resilient!*

*Thank you!*

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