



# HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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*Specialists in Radiation Safety*

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The Health Physics Society, formed in 1956, is a scientific organization of professionals who specialize in radiation safety. Its mission is excellence in the science and practice of radiation safety. Today its nearly 6,000 members represent all scientific and technical areas related to radiation safety including academia, government, medicine, research and development, analytical services, consulting, and industry in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Society is chartered in the United States as an independent nonprofit scientific organization, and, as such, is not affiliated with any government or industrial organization or private entity. Its headquarters are in McLean, Virginia. The Society is dedicated to the development, dissemination, and application of scientific and practical knowledge regarding radiation safety and control.

## **Expertise of the members of the Health Physics Society:**

Members of the Health Physics Society work in a variety of professional areas including research, industry, education, environmental protection, governmental activities, regulation, enforcement, and medicine.

**Research** - Health physics researchers investigate principles by which radiation interacts with matter and living systems. The field also involves study of environmental transport of radioactivity and the effects of radiation on biological organisms. Research is used in many ways, ranging from designing radiation detection instrumentation to health risk assessments necessary for establishing radiation protection standards.

**Industry** - Applied health physicists draw on their technical knowledge to advise, recommend, and implement methods and appropriate equipment for use in industrial work involving radionuclides and radiation. Health physicists oversee radiation safety activities and manage radiation control programs.

**Education** - Educational health physicists provide education and training for future health physicists, radiation workers, and the general public on radiation safety and methods in use for safeguarding human health and the environment. They include faculty members at major universities in the United States, as well as those whose jobs include administration of training programs and teaching. Many universities have specific courses of study and offer degrees in health physics and related fields that include radiation safety.

**Government** - Health physicists working in governmental activities, regulation, and enforcement have experience and knowledge of potential radiation hazards. They are involved with establishing guidelines for radiation control which benefit both workers and the public. Society members are employed by the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health, various other federal agencies, and radiation control agencies in all 50 states.

**Medicine** - Radiation is used in every modern hospital today to diagnose or treat disease. Medical health physicists ensure the safety of patients and staff who are exposed to radiation sources used in diagnosis or therapy as well as insuring the quality of radiation machines and instrumentation. In addition, medical health physicists teach radiation safety, physics, and biology to medical personnel.

The Health Physics Society is a professional resource at the disposal of the Congress and the Administration as needs arise for objective advice regarding pertinent radiation safety issues. The Society looks forward to being of assistance in this important area of science and governmental policy.