



Contribution ID: 171

Type: **Poster Presentation**

Sharing of data in nuclear emergency situations: a 2020s review of best practice and legal obligations

Wednesday, 11 February 2026 13:43 (15 minutes)

This poster examines the UK's frameworks for nuclear emergency information sharing, analysing the gap between stated transparency obligations and crisis behaviour. We review the three-tier operational structure, legal requirements, and public communication systems. Historical case studies, from the 1957 Windscale Fire through the 2005 THORP leak, illustrate how information sharing has functioned in practice across different regulatory eras. By drawing on crisis theory and democratic accountability principles, we examine questions around retrospective review mechanisms and the tensions between technical protocols and political pressures in radiological emergency response. The research aims to provide nuclear emergency management students with context on the legal and ethical frameworks governing crisis communication, as these frameworks shape how technical protocols tangibly function in real-world conditions.

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Session Classification: Lunch and Posters