

# CBRN-e risks and threats

**CBRN risks include nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical risks. These can be accidents but also criminal acts, during which toxic elements spread into the environment.**

The evolution of the international situation is reflected in the constant worsening of the NRBC threat and risks (nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical weapons) which have now reached a level at the highest level since the end of the Cold War.

Thus, the use of chemical weapons by States parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention shows that the use of CBRN weapons must now be considered a reality.

The hybrid nature of a conflict reinforces the interest in using this type of weapon on a small scale and in a very discreet manner while causing significant effects.

The calling into question of certain international treaties, such as the Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF), and the continuation of nuclear research activities with military application by certain countries is weakening the major state balances previously established.

(Information report from the National Assembly on NRBC defense of February 23, 2022).

The NRBC threat corresponds to the acquisition, possession, possibility of use and willingness to use NRBC weapons or materials by an enemy maliciously or for aggressive purposes. The Nuclear, Radiological, Biological, Chemical and Explosive (NRBCE) domain constitutes a high threat and induces increased vulnerability, including for the civilian population.

At the national level, the system for combating the NRBC risk and the threat presented by explosives is structured around a strategic NRBC-E committee (COMSTRAT-NRBCE), chaired by the SGDSN, and an interministerial commission on Explosives (CIEX), chaired by the Prime Minister's office.

This system includes a "prevention" component, with a body of texts regulating access to NRBC-E agents, and an "intervention" component based both on the NRBC government plan and on two complementary components :

- local first responders (police, gendarmerie, firefighters, SAMU), with equipment guaranteeing their protection, means to treat victims in an emergency and ensure control of the site ;
- specialized national units and resources, intervening in a second phase.

Based on the recommendations of the 2013 White Paper on Defense and National Security, in 2014 the SGDSN developed a general interministerial contract (CGI) for the period 2015-2019 setting out the civilian capabilities necessary for national security.

In 2020, a new interministerial capacity contract to combat NRBC terrorism (CCI NRBC) 2021- 2024 was defined. It now sets the capabilities and level of commitment of each ministry in the specific NRBC field.

***L'article est unique et a été rédigé par un bénévole expert de chez ADESS, ayant une grande expertise dans sa thématique de prédilection.***

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