



Press release

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International aeroradiometric exercise in Switzerland and annual radioactivity measurement flights

Specialists from France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Switzerland will train in Switzerland from 2 to 6 June to carry out joint radioactivity measurements from the air. The focus of this international exercise will be to exchange measurement and evaluation methodologies and to train in cooperative procedures. The deployment of measurement teams from different countries will enable a large area to be quickly checked for radioactivity in an emergency. The exercise is being organised by the Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP). The annual radioactivity measurement flights will take place before the exercise.

The exercise comprises five separate modules designed to test the capabilities of the measurement teams and to compare different operational procedures and measurement strategies. The training modules include a reference measurement at the Thun military training area, an altitude profile over Lake Thun, and a composite mapping exercise – the collaborative mapping of a larger area by various measurement teams – covering the region between Liestal (BL), Brugg (AG), Muri (AG), Huttwil (BE) and Breitenbach (SO). A measurement flight around the Paul Scherrer Institute offers scientifically interesting measurements with various natural and artificial radiation scenarios. Another module involves the search for radioactive sources at the Frauenfeld military training area. For this, drones will be deployed to complement the helicopter measurements. The radioactive sources positioned for training purposes will be monitored by trained personnel and pose no danger to the public or the environment.

The aim of this international exchange of expertise and training is to be prepared for cross-border mutual assistance in the event of increased radioactivity and to be able to consolidate measurement results quickly and efficiently. In such an event in Switzerland, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) within the FOCP

would be responsible for protecting civilians, ordering protective measures, and deploying and coordinating measurement resources from various partners.

Routine flights in the vicinity of Swiss nuclear power plants

Prior to the international aeroradiometric exercise, the NEOC measurement team will conduct its annual alternating survey of Swiss nuclear power plant surroundings on behalf of the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI). This year, on 27 and 28 May, the survey will cover areas around the nuclear power plants of Mühleberg (BE) and Gösgen (SO).

Aeroradiometric surveys are carried out using a Swiss Air Force Super Puma helicopter with specialised measuring equipment, which flies several parallel lines at approximately 90 metres above the designated area. To minimise noise disturbance for local residents, a lunch break will be observed between 12 noon and 1.30pm. The flights will begin no earlier than 8am and end no later than 5pm. In the event of poor flying conditions, the flights will be rescheduled or cancelled within the specified dates. Any changes to the programme will be published on the NEOC website (www.naz.ch/en), as will the measurement results.

The NEOC's annual measurement campaign ensures the operational readiness of personnel and equipment, collects radioactivity data in urban areas and around critical infrastructure, and strengthens cooperation with cantonal and international partners.

Further information:

National Emergency Operations Centre NEOC, <https://www.naz.ch/en/aktuell/index>

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