

Durham E-Theses

Exposures: Exploring Selves and Landscapes in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

NICHOLAS RUSH-COOPER

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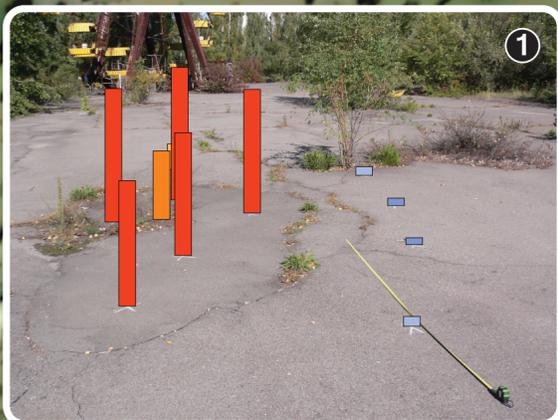
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A



"I was just wondering about the global radition in the area. I thought it was just higher than in normal areas [...] but it kind of suprised me. I thought it was really more the same high level everywhere, but it's kind of all hotspots."
- A visitor remarking on the Zone's radiation 'hotspots'

"Well, you can see these shafts [manholes]. They were constructed after the accident, and it was necessary to cover the area around with asphalt. This was mixed near to the nuclear power plant, and so to make it contaminated sand was used. And that's why all these places around these shafts are contaminated. That's just one explanation.
[...]
It reads 10,000 beta particles per square centimeter in a minute. For items transported outside it is allowed only 100, if you take a bit of this asphalt you will never go outside of the exclusion Zone."
- Tour Guide Yuri on the radioactive asphalt

"They got the guts to go sit up on the swings at the amusement park. I wouldn't have gone up there for fear of radioactive tetanus."
- Visitor remarks on seeing two young women sitting in the swing boats

"When I was with everybody I thought that if we do what the guides do and go where they go I wasn't worried.
"I just, yeah, if he says ten [minutes] is OK or to be here just a few minutes then I thought it was all right."
- Visitor comments on guide directions

B

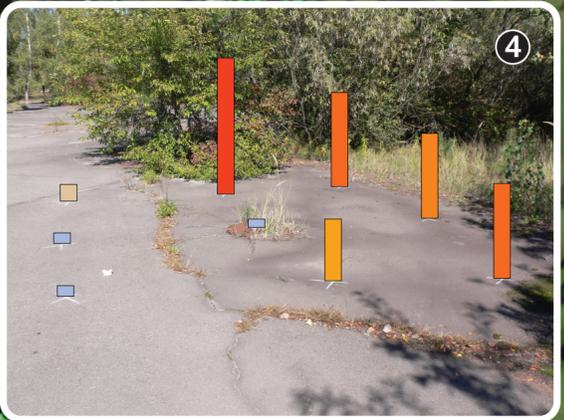
School «ГЦЦ» #3»

Dose records:
Average dose for day-trip to the Zone:
0.0003 mSv
Total dose recieved during mapping:
0.0022 mSv
Average annual background dose worldwide:
3.0 mSv (UNSCEAR figure)

"Yeah, with this Geiger instrument. I found it a bit funny, the whole group is gathering around this instrument and it is
climbing,
climbing,
climbing,
More radiation on this instrument. Yeah,
photo, photo, photo."

One photo from all, and the whole group is standing around this instrument. It's really crazy, but what do you see? She just had this little yellow, small geiger instrument, what can you show with a photo see this instrument? Just a figure of 6.7."
- A visitor remarks on the photos of the moss and Geiger counter

Nick: "Do you want to see a high point? There's a patch of moss over there where it jumps to about 2,500, 3,000 [milliRems/hour]."
Jay: "That's, 30[microSv]?"
N: "Well, you saw 1,600 before. It's this patch of moss here."
J: "Just that little thing?"
N: "Watch it. This is the difference, in the space of 1 metre."
Holds the Geiger counter out, Jay does the same with his
N: "Here we only have 126, 128. 130, round about."
Nick takes geiger counter to the moss
N: "Don't, don't put it down. Just hold it about a few centimeters above. There you go."
Geiger counter alarm, limit set at 5.00microSv, goes off
N: "2,000 odd. 2,100. Round here."
Moves with the Geiger counter a metre or so away, alarm stops
N: "And around here we've got 170, 190. That's changed in the space of four feet."
- I show a visitor the rate of change over the moss



"It's not like I was really watching every single step. But if there was a large pile of moss and I could go around it, you know. Especially after that radioactive moss in the amusement park."

50m

Cultural centre «Энергетик»

C