

The Nuclear Facilities Attack Database (NuFAD)

Variable Definitions

Cases that featured characteristics of more than one Incident Type or multiple possible Motivations were coded according to what were believed to be the most salient Incident Type and Motivation.

Motivational Categories:

Criminal – Actions believed to have been planned or committed for profit/personal gain or in service of some other illicit profit-driven enterprise

Left-wing/Marxist Antigovernment – Actions planned or committed to undermine established structures of power, in the interest of implementing far-left political structures or policies

Right-wing Antigovernment – Actions planned or committed to undermine established structures of power, in the interest of implementing far-right political structures or policies

Environmental – Actions planned or committed to undermine interests and activities perceived to pose a threat to the natural environment; in the current context often intended to bring attention to nuclear power's shortcomings for the sake of preventing the environmental hazards it poses

Anti-nuclear – Actions planned or committed to degrade confidence in or bring attention to nuclear power or nuclear weapons for reasons of pacifism

Ethno-nationalist – Actions planned or committed as part of an ethnically oriented separatist movement to gain political autonomy and/or as revenge for perceived mistreatment or subjugation of an ethnic group

Personal/Idiosyncratic – Actions planned or committed for expressive personal reasons that do not represent an ideology shared by a larger collective

Jihadist (Sunni) – Actions planned or committed by militant Sunni Islamists as part of a campaign of active jihad against entities perceived to be infidels or apostates

Unknown – Cases for which the primary perpetrator motivation could not be determined with a high degree of confidence have been coded as "Unknown"

Cases with mixed or multiple possible motivations were coded in accordance with the motive believed to have been most salient based on the information in open sources.



Incident Types:

Assault – An armed incursion into a facility that involves the employment or threat of violence and does not involve attempting to abscond with nuclear material; usually overt in nature

Sabotage – A furtive hostile action taken against a secured facility, often by an insider, devoid of intention to steal nuclear material and intended to compromise the operability of said facility without making use of explosives or other means of outright destruction (employment of explosives and similar implements are considered acts of violence and are coded as “Assault”)

Theft – An attempt to illicitly remove nuclear or radiological material from a secured site; usually covert

Breach – A physical penetration of facility security devoid of violence and larcenous intent

Unknown – Incidents were coded as “Unknown” if the understood circumstances bore either no evidence for confident indication of Incident Type or similarly compelling evidence for more than one type

Incident Type followed by “(Plot Only)” – Indicates that no kinetic action was taken against the targeted facility but the perpetrator is known to have planned an exploit and is thought to have had the intention to follow through with it

Cases with the potential to be interpreted as more than one of the above listed types of incidents were coded in accordance with the incident type determined to be most applicable based on the information in open sources.

Insider:

Yes/No – Whether or not someone with legitimate access to the facility or who otherwise was trusted with sensitive information about the facility, was involved in or otherwise aided the action taken against the facility

Unknown – Cases were coded as “Unknown” if there was no direct evidence and no basis for making a confident judgment one way or the other

Success:

Yes/No – Whether or not the intruder is believed to have achieved their ostensible goals with respect to actions against the facility, to the extent that these are discernible

Unknown – Cases for which the perpetrator’s ostensible goals could not be determined with confidence or for which there was uncertainty as to whether the perpetrator’s actions resulted in the realization of their goals