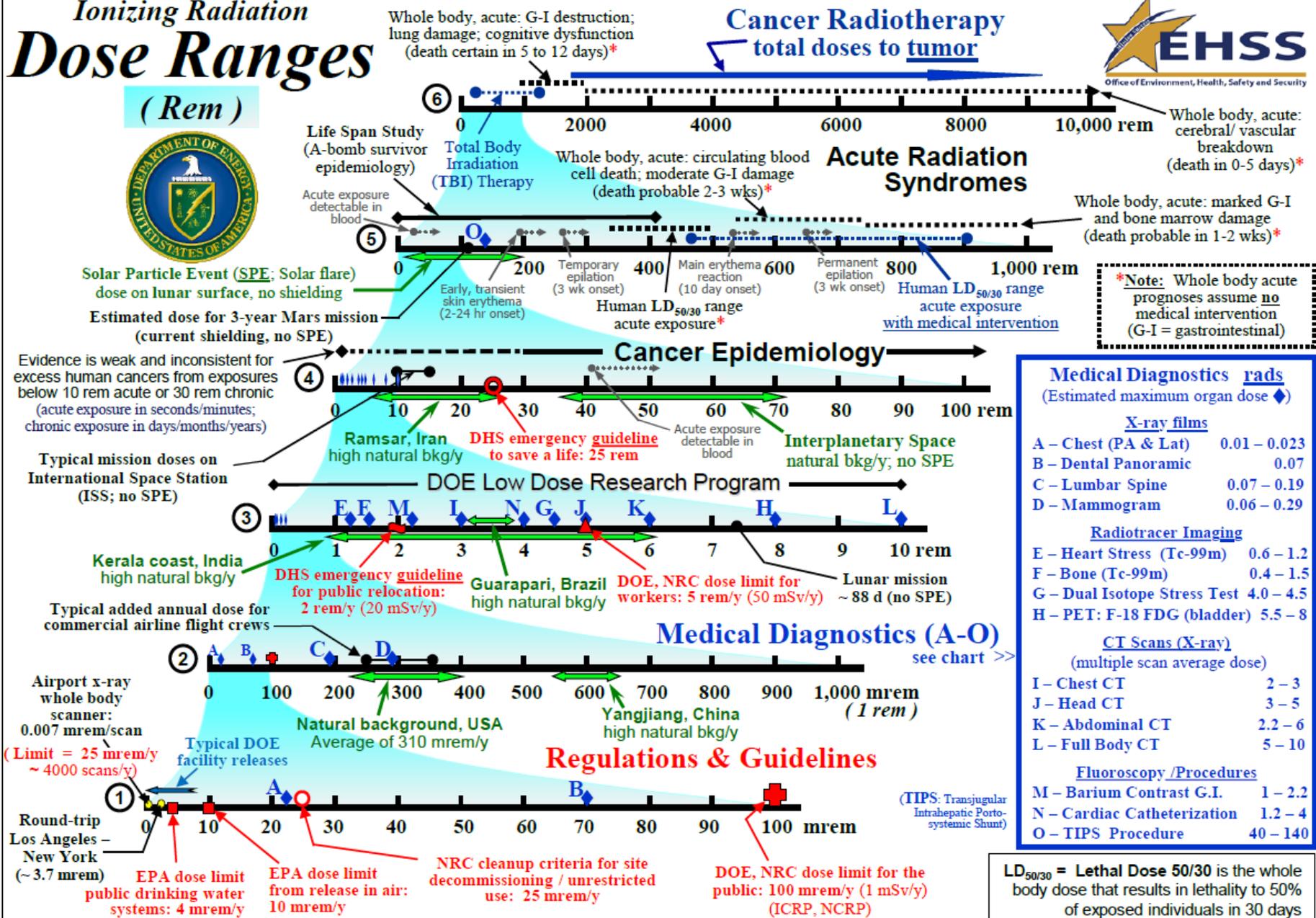


Ionizing Radiation Dose Ranges

(Rem)



NOTE: This chart was constructed with the intention of providing a simple, user-friendly, "order-of-magnitude" reference for radiation exposures of interest to scientists, managers, and the general public. In that spirit, most quantities are expressed as "dose equivalent" in the more commonly used radiation protection units, the rem and Sievert. Medical diagnostics are expressed as estimated maximum organ dose; as they are not in "effective dose" they do not imply an estimation of risk (no tissue weighting). Dose limits are in effective dose, but for most radiation types and energies the difference is numerically not significant within this context. It is acknowledged that the decision to use these units is a simplification, and does not address everyone's needs. -- (DHS = Department of Homeland Security; EPA = Environmental Protection Agency; NRC = Nuclear Regulatory Commission)

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LD_{50/30} = Lethal Dose 50/30 is the whole body dose that results in lethality to 50% of exposed individuals in 30 days

Absorbed Dose: 100 rads = 1 Gray
1 rem ~ 1 rad for x- and gamma-rays
Dose Equivalent: 100 rem = 1 Sievert
= (absorbed dose x radiation quality)

Source: Office of Public Radiation Protection, Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, U.S. Department of Energy
<http://energy.gov/ehtss/environment-health-safety-security>