(MUSIC)

JOAN CARTAN-HANSEN, HOST: RADIATION IS ENERGY TRAVELING FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.

SUNSHINE IS ONE FORM OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION.

RADIATION EXISTS NATURALLY IN NATURE, IN THE AIR, IN THE EARTH.

AND THEN THERE’S RADIATION FROM NUCLEAR PARTICLES.

MOST ATOMS OR ELEMENTS ARE STABLE, THAT IS THEIR MOLECULAR STUCTURE DOESN’T CHANGE.

BUT SOME ELEMENTS ARE UNSTABLE, THAT IS THEY CAN CHANGE THEIR ATOMIC STRUCTURE.

WHEN AN ATOM CHANGES, IT EMITS THAT EXCESS ENERGY AS ALPHA OR BETA PARTICLES OR AS GAMMA RAYS.

MATERIAL EMITTING RADIATION IS SAID TO BE RADIOACTIVE.

EXPOSURE TO RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL CAN BE DANGEROUS, EVEN DEADLY.

RADIATION GIVES US LOTS OF GOOD THINGS LIKE HEAT, LIGHT AND ENERGY, BUT IT’S ALSO SOMETHING WE NEED TO TREAT WITH RESPECT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY, CHECK OUT THE SCIENCE TREK WEBSITE FOR THIS AND ALL OUR SCIENCE TOPICS FOR KIDS.

YOU’LL FIND IT AT IDAHOPTV.ORG/SCIENCE TREK

(MUSIC)