

# Nuclear Smuggling - Scientific American, April, 2008

## KEY CONCEPTS

- Existing and future radiation portal monitors cannot cost-effectively detect weapons-grade uranium hidden inside shipping containers.
- The U.S. should spend more resources rounding up nuclear smugglers, securing highly enriched uranium that is now scattered overseas, and blending down this material to low-enriched uranium, which cannot be fashioned into a bomb.

## URANIUM IN A HAYSTACK

- 20 feet - length of a typical shipping container. Volume of international shipping is measured in 20-foot equivalent or TEUs.
- 297 million - Number of TEUs shipped worldwide in 2005.
- 42 million - TEUs entering U.S. ports that same year.
- 6,500 - TEUs arriving at the Port of New York and New Jersey on a light day; up to 13,000 on a busy day.