

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-04-003

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

**Facility**

Industrial Services of America  
Louisville, Kentucky

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

- Notification of Unusual Event
- Alert
- Site Area Emergency
- General Emergency
- Not Applicable

Agreement State License No.: N/A

**SUBJECT: DAMAGED GAUGE FOUND AT SCRAP YARD**

On January 16, 2004, the radiation detectors alarmed at the North American Stainless scrap yard in Ghent, Kentucky, when a truck entered the facility. Radiation levels were reported as 42 microrem per hour. The truck and its load were not accepted and were sent back to its point of origin, the Industrial Services of America scrap yard in Louisville. Subsequent investigation by Commonwealth inspectors and the facility determined that the source of the radiation was a damaged fixed gauge. Based upon examination of the device, it appears that the gauge went through the shredder at the scrap yard, damaging a portion of the gauge's shielding. The source and shutter mechanism were not damaged. Initial contact radiation levels measured by the Commonwealth taken on January 20 were 58 millirem per hour (mrem/hr) with the shutter open and 35 mrem/hr with the shutter closed.

Review of the gamma spectra by Commonwealth inspectors on January 23 tentatively identified the radioisotope in the gauge as Radium 226. Further evaluation of the gamma spectra is planned. Wipes of the gauge did not detect any removable contamination. No other identification was found on the gauge. The Commonwealth is working with local gauge manufacturers (i.e, Ronan and Ohmart) to identify the model of the gauge and the originating facility.

The gauge is currently secured at the scrap yard. Unless the Commonwealth can identify the gauge's owner, the scrap yard facility will have to dispose of the gauge through a radioactive waste broker.

The contents of this preliminary notification were reviewed with the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

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