

August 12, 2004

*This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 8/16/04*

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-04-011**

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 III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Cardinal Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Madison, WI	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
License No.: 025-1123-01	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
(Agreement State licensee)	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: IODINE-131 SPILL AT NUCLEAR PHARMACY

DESCRIPTION:

On August 10, 2004, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) notified the NRC Operations Center of a spill of liquid radioactive material at the Cardinal Health nuclear pharmacy, in Madison, Wisconsin.

The spill occurred on August 9, 2004, when a nuclear pharmacist dropped a vial containing approximately 50 millicuries of iodine-131 onto the floor. The vial was being carried in a lead container. The container opened upon impact and the vial broke, spilling approximately 25 millicuries of the material on the floor. The nuclear pharmacist and the licensee's radiation safety officer decontaminated the area. Floor areas with fixed contamination were covered with shielding material. Preliminary bioassays of both individuals did not identify any significant uptake of radioactive material.

DHFS inspectors responded to the licensee facility and performed surveys inside and outside the building. The amount of iodine-131 released to the environment through the exhaust stack was below regulatory limits. Surveys of the roof area identified slightly elevated radiation levels at the exhaust stack but no readings above background elsewhere on the roof or near building air intakes. Surveys of delivery vehicles, by the inspectors, were also all negative. The incident did not pose a threat to public health and safety.

The NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs and Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The NRC's Region III (Chicago) Office is monitoring the State's investigation. The information in this Preliminary Notification was reviewed with the State. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. CDT on August 12, 2004.

CONTACTS:	James Lynch	Kevin Null
	(630) 829-9661	(630) 829-9854