

DCS No.: 9999000070420

Date: April 20, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-07-005

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**

Cardinal Health, Inc.  
1001 Palmer Plaza Lane  
Charlotte, NC  
Agreement State Licensee  
NC License: 06-0794-d1

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN NUCLEAR MEDICINE SYRINGES

Region I received notification from the Radiation Protection Section of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, that at 3:45 a.m. today, a Cardinal Health courier made a delivery to Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, NC and upon returning to his truck, the courier found that six containers were stolen. The six containers held a total of 1.669 curies of technetium-99m (Tc-99m) in the form of 49 unit dose syringes. The stolen containers are rigid black nylon cases and are about one square foot and weigh between 10 pounds and 15 pounds. Inside the containers are shielded metal cylinders containing syringes. Each container was labeled with the radiation symbol and the word "Radioactive."

Tc-99m is a radiopharmaceutical used for common diagnostic nuclear medicine studies by most hospitals. Tc-99m has a short half-life (six hours) and is a low energy gamma-emitter. The syringes with Tc-99m pose no immediate health or safety threat unless they are removed from the shielded cylinders and extensively handled or broken open. The Tc-99m has gone through approximately two half-lives and the activity would now be approximately 400 millicuries.

The Radiation Protection Section of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has notified the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police, and has issued a press release.

The facts of this Preliminary Notification were discussed with a representative from the Radiation Protection Section of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and are current as of 3:00 pm.

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