

November 20, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-033

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 IV staff on this date.

Facility

Zipper Zeman Associates
Lynnwood, Washington
License No.: WN-1-507-1
Washington Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 20, 2000, the Washington Department of Health (WDOH) notified Region IV by e-mail of a stolen portable gauge. The WDOH was informed by Zipper Zeman Associates, that a Campbell Pacific Nuclear Model MC-1 portable gauge (Serial No. MD81104670) containing a 370.0 megabequerel (10 millicurie) source of cesium-137 and a 1850.0 megabequerel (50 millicurie) source of americium-241/beryllium had been stolen. The licensee informed WDOH that the authorized user had been working at a temporary jobsite in Centralia, Washington, on Saturday, November 18, 2000, and had stayed overnight at a local motel to continue work the next day. The authorized user had secured the portable gauge in its locked case. The locked case was then chained and locked in the canopy covered bed of a 1988 Toyota four-wheel drive pickup. The pickup was last seen at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday night. At 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 19, 2000, the authorized user discovered that the pickup had been stolen. The authorized user promptly reported the theft to the Centralia police, the licensee, and WDOH's emergency line. As of 11:00 a.m. on November 20, 2000, the vehicle and gauge are still missing.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by e-mail from WDOH at 1:00 p.m. on November 20, 2000. Region IV has informed OEOD, NMSS, and OSTP.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 2:30 p.m.(CST) November 20, 2000.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell Dwight Chamberlain
 817-860-8143 817-860-8106