

December 19, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-036

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

Hazard Management Services
Fresno, California
License No.: CA-6508
California Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN LEAD ANALYZER

DESCRIPTION:

On December 15, 2000, the California Radiation Health Branch (CRHB) notified the NRC Operations Center at 6:59 p.m. (EST) that a lead analyzer, containing a 222 megabequerel (6 millicuries) cadmium-109 source, was reported stolen. The CRHB was informed by Hazard Management Services, a California licensee, that a Niton Model XL-309 x-ray fluorescence analyzer, used for checking for lead in paint, was discovered missing on December 14, 2000. The licensee informed CRHB that the analyzer was unattended only momentarily in the hall of the Edison Middle School in Fresno, California; school authorities and local Police Department were notified; and a \$500.00 reward was offered for the return of the analyzer. The CRHB determined that the analyzer posed only minimal risk to the public. The radiation readings on contact with the source exposed is only 1-2 microsieverts per hour (100-200 microrem/hour).

On December 19, 2000, the licensee informed the CRHB that the analyzer had been recovered on December 18, 2000. However, no further details are known at this time.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the NRC Operations Center on December 15, 2000. Region IV has informed NMSS and OSTP.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 12:30 p.m. on December 19, 2000.

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