PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-048

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 Krazan and Associates Clovis, California License No.: 4247-01 California Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency

____ General Emergency

X Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On October 15, 2001, the California Radiation Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC's Operation Center by phone that a portable gauge was stolen. The CRHB was informed by Krazan and Associates, a California licensee, that a Troxler moisture/density gauge, Model 3340 (Serial No. 231711) was stolen from an employee's residence in Modesto, California. The employee reported that the gauge chain was cut and the gauge stolen from the back of his pickup truck sometime between 9:00 p.m. (PDT), October 11 and 6:00 a.m. (PDT), October 12, 2001. The gauge contains a 370.0 megabequerel (10.0 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1480.0 megabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/berylium source. The licensee plans to offer a reward for return of the gauge.

NRC's Operation Center notified Region IV of this occurrence on October 15, 2001. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, IAT, OPA, OSTP, and RIV SLO.

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