

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-01-037

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Beiswenger, Hoch & Associates, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Hialiah, FL
License: FL-0759-1

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (the Bureau) notified the Region II office that the licensee had reported a stolen portable gauge. The gauge was a Troxler, model 3440, serial number 21218, containing 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241 as radioactive sources, locked inside the device at the time of the theft. The gauge was stolen from an approved temporary storage location at a construction site. The licensee reported that several containers and offices were broken into, and other equipment was also stolen. The licensee had three Troxler gauges at the site, but only one was stolen, and the keys to the gauge were not taken. The local police authorities have been notified and a press release will be issued.

The Bureau has the incident under investigation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Bureau. The Bureau also notified the NRC Operations Center. This information presented herein has been discussed with the Bureau and is current as of 10:15 a.m., Friday, October 26, 2001.

CONTACT: Richard Woodruff
404-562-4704

Thomas Decker
404-562-4721