

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-01-040

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

Tri-State Testing and Drilling, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Chattanooga, TN
License: R-33105

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the Region II office that the licensee had reported a stolen portable gauge. The gauge was a Troxler, model 3440, serial number 17252, containing 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241 as radioactive sources, locked inside the gauge at the time of theft. The gauge was secured in a locked container and chained to the bed of a pickup truck parked at an employee's residence. The chain was cut and the container with the locked gauge was stolen sometime between 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 28, 2001. The local police authorities were notified of the event.

The Division has the event under investigation and a press release is planned.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Division. The Division also notified the NRC Operations Center, the neighboring States of Georgia and Alabama, and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. This information has been discussed with the Division and is current as of 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, November 28, 2001.

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