

January 8, 2002

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-02-001

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**

South Broward Hospital District  
(An Agreement State Licensee)  
Hollywood, FL  
License: FL 008-1

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (the Bureau) notified the NRC Operations Center that the licensee had reported a medical misadministration that occurred on January 4, 2002. A patient undergoing treatment to the eyelid was given 2480 centigrays (rads) from a strontium-90 eye applicator during the third session of the treatment plan. A nurse who was timing the exposure using a stopwatch, was distracted during the treatment and the patient was treated for 1 minute and 49 seconds, instead of the intended time of 44 seconds, which resulted in the patient's eyelid receiving 148% more dose from radiation than was prescribed for the treatment. The licensee reported that the patient and the attending physician had been notified of the event, and that under a worse case scenario, some scar tissue could develop on the patient's eyelid.

The licensee is buying new stop watches with audio alarms and is giving additional in-service training to the nurses. The Bureau will further evaluate the event and the corrective actions taken by the licensee after a written report is received from the licensee.

Region II received notification of this occurrence from the NRC Operations Center and the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2002.

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