

March 28, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-018

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

North County Compaction Engineering, Inc.
Escondido, CA
License No.: 4165-37
California Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On March 28, 2002, the California Radiation Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC's Operation Center that a portable gauge had been stolen. The CRHB was informed by North County Compaction Engineering that a moisture/density gauge was stolen from the cab of an operator's truck while parked in front of his residence in Long Beach, California. The operator last saw the gauge locked inside the truck cab at 6:00 p.m. (PST) on March 27. This morning at 5:00 a.m. (PST) the operator discovered that his truck had been broken into and the gauge stolen. The CPN International, Inc. moisture/density gauge, Model MC-1 (Serial No. M14065450), contains a nominal 0.37 gigabecquerel (10.0 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source and 1.11 gigabecquerel (30.0 millicurie) cesium-137 source. The licensee promptly reported the theft to the local police department. The licensee plans to issue a press release and offer a reward for the return of the gauge.

NRC's Operation Center notified Region IV of this occurrence on March 28, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, IAT, OPA, STP, and RIV SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 p.m. on March 28, 2002.

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