

June 13, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-032

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

Furgo South Inc.
Houston, Texas
License No.: L00058
Texas Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On June 12, 2002, the NRC was notified by the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control (TDH) of the loss of a portable gauge. The TDH was informed by Furgo South Inc. on June 12, 2002, that a Troxler moisture/density gauge, Model 3430 (Serial No. 26992) containing a 296.0 megabequerel (8 millicurie) cesium-137 source (Serial No. 750-171) and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source (Serial No. 47-23560) had been stolen earlier in the day. The licensee informed the TDH that the gauge was stolen from the bed of a pickup truck parked at a restaurant located in the Houston area, while the driver was picking up lunch. The licensee reported that the gauge was secured in its transport case, chained and locked to the bed of the pickup truck. The driver reported that the chain was cut and that the gauge and transport case along with other items were missing from the truck. The local police, device manufacturer, and the Texas Department of Transportation were promptly notified.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center at 9:00 p.m. (CDT) on June 12, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, IAT, OSTP, and the Region's SLO and PAO. The Region's SLO will notify Mexico.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 10:30 a.m. on June 13, 2002 .

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell
817-860-8143

Linda McLean
817-860-8116