

July 26, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-027

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

Federal Express
State of Florida

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: AIRLINE CRASH CARRYING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

On July 26, 2002, at 5:43 a.m., EDST, a Federal Express Boeing 727 cargo aircraft, Flight 1478, carrying radioactive materials enroute from Memphis, Tennessee, crash landed short of the runway at the Tallahassee, Florida, airport while attempting to land under foggy weather conditions. All three crew members sustained injuries, but survived the crash and were taken by ambulance to a local hospital; the aircraft sustained significant damage.

The radioactive materials on board consisted of four packages, having the types and quantities of materials as follows: Two packages, containing 5.47 gigabecquerels (148 millicuries) Thallium-201, and 5.68 gigabecquerels (153 millicuries) Thallium-201, respectively. One package, containing 59.2 megabecquerels (1.6 millicuries) P-32, (liquid), and one package containing 7.19 gigabecquerels (194 millicuries) P-32 in solid salt form.

The State of Florida, Bureau of Radiation Control, was notified at 8:15 a.m. of this event and immediately responded to the scene of the crash. The packages containing radioactive materials were consumed by the resultant fire.

Considerable media attention has, and continues to occur, relative to the crash of the craft.

The Region II Duty Officer received initial notification of this event from the Headquarters Operation Center earlier today, based on a report from officials of the State of Florida. Region II, NRC, has offered assistance to the State of Florida, Bureau of Radiation Control and notified the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. EDST, July 26, 2002, and has been discussed with the State of Florida, Bureau of Radiation Control.

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