

August 21, 2002

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 8/22/2002.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-042

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

URS Corporation
Seattle, WA
License No.: WN-I0172-1
Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On August 19, 2002, the NRC was notified by the Washington Department of Health (WDOH), Division of Radiation Protection, of the theft of a Campbell Pacific Nuclear moisture/density gauge, Model MC-1DRP (Serial No. MD01005902). The gauge contained a 0.37 gigabequerel (10 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1.85 gigabequerel (50 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source. URS Corporation informed the WDOH that the authorized user had been working at a temporary job site and had parked his pickup truck in the parking lot of a local motel in Centralia, Washington, at 8:00 p.m. (PDT) on August 18, 2002. The gauge was locked in its transportation case in the back of the pickup truck under the locked canopy. The transportation case was visible, but not secured to the bed of the truck. When the authorized user returned to the truck at 6:00 a.m. (PDT) the next morning, he noticed that the back window of the canopy had been forced open and the gauge was missing. The local police were promptly notified.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by email from the State at 3:14 p.m. (CDT) on August 19, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, IAT, OSTP, and the Region's SLO and PAO. The Region's SLO will notify Canada.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 4:00 p.m. (CDT), August 19, 2002.

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