

**THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 9/23/02.**

September 20, 2002

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-049**

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**

Schlumberger Technology Corporation  
Sugar Land, Texas  
License No.: L01833  
Texas Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

**SUBJECT: LOSS OF CONTROL OF A WELL LOGGING SOURCE POSSIBLY RESULTING IN EXPOSURES TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**DESCRIPTION:**

On August 30, 2001, Schlumberger, a Texas licensee, notified the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control (TDH) by telephone of the loss of control of a well logging source containing approximately 62.9 gigabequerel (1.7 curies) of cesium-137. The special form sealed source is an AEA Technology Model CDC.CY3 designed for use in oil and gas well logging operations.

Schlumberger informed TDH that a well logging crew had arrived at a temporary job site located near Edinburg, Texas at approximately 1:00 a.m. on August 29, 2001, and began well logging operations at 3:00 a.m. Well logging operations ended at 10:00 p.m. on August 29, 2001. It was reported that following the well logging operations, the licensee's logging engineer failed to properly transfer the sealed source from the well logging tool to its shielded transportation container. Using the remote handling tools, the logging engineer removed the source from the logging tool, rinsed the source in diesel to remove excess debris, and thought he properly placed the source in the shielded transportation container. However, the source apparently fell from the handling tool onto the rig floor as the logging engineer left the temporary job site to return to the licensee's permanent underground storage pit at their Edinburg facility.

The source was discovered missing at approximately 10:00 a.m. on August 30, 2001, when the shield was removed from the permanent storage pit. The licensee began emergency notifications immediately. Schlumberger's logging engineer and location manager returned to the temporary job site at approximately 11:30 a.m. on August 30, 2001. Because of the distance to the rig, the licensee manager contacted staff at the rig site and requested that they look for the source on the rig floor and the path from the rig to the truck. The staff quickly identified the source on the rig floor and the floor was cleared at 12:30 p.m. on August 30. Schlumberger staff were on site by 2:00 p.m. on August 30 and secured the source.

Schlumberger conducted an investigation and prepared a written report dated October 29, 2001, which was provided to TDH. The licensee determined that seven members of the public received exposures greater than 1 millisievert (100 millirem) with the maximum exposure calculated at 6.13 millisievert (613 millirem). Nine other individuals received exposures less than 1 millisievert (100 millirem).

Region IV received notification of this occurrence as a result of the ongoing investigation being conducted by the Augmented Inspection Team on an event that was reported by Schlumberger on May 23, 2002 (EN 38938). Region IV informed TDH. TDH is conducting an investigation of this event. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, and Region IV's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 p.m. (CDT) on September 20, 2002.

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