

February 7, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 2/11/03.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-009

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

Scottsdale Memorial Health Services Co., Inc.
Scottsdale, Arizona
License No.: 07-265
Arizona Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: BRACHYTHERAPY SEEDS UNACCOUNTED FOR

DESCRIPTION: On January 29, 2003, a brachytherapy procedure using I-125 seeds was conducted at the licensee's hospital. On February 6, it was discovered that five seeds containing approximately 0.39 mCi (14.4 MBq) each could not be accounted for. A survey of the source storage area, source use area, linens, and waste was conducted and could not account for the missing sources.

The State and the licensee are investigating. The State has notified the FBI.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on February 6, 2003. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT, and the Region's PAO and acting SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:30 a.m. on February 7.

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