

April 7, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-03-005

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

R&L Carriers, Inc.
(A transportation company)
Lakeland, FL
Non-licensee:

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: TRANSPORTATION INCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

The Florida Bureau of Radiological Health (the Bureau) notified the NRC Operations Center that two tractor trailers were involved in an accident on Saturday, April 5, 2003. The accident occurred on State Road 60, four miles west of US route 441 in Osceola County. The R&L Carriers company trailer burned after the accident and was carrying two gauges containing radioactive materials.

The gauges were portable Troxler gauges being returned to licensees following calibration. One gauge was a model 3411, serial number 11375, and the other gauge was a model 3440, serial number 31103. Each gauge contained 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241, as sealed sources inside the gauge.

The Bureau was not informed of this event until Monday, April 7, 2003. The event is under investigation, and the status of the gauges is being determined. The NRC, Region II office has offered assistance if needed.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the Bureau. This information has been discussed with the Bureau and is current as of 3:45 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2003.

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