

**From:** Mike Bohan <mike.bohan@yale.edu>  
**To:** Richard McKinley <rwm1@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Apr 14, 2003 2:03 PM  
**Subject:** [Fwd: FedEx Delivery of Hazardous materials at Yale-New Haven Hospital]

Richard,

Here is some more info for your consideration in the matter we will discuss this afternoon.

Regards,

Mike Bohan

eric brown wrote:

>  
> You have the full cooperation of the HVNA station in North Haven Ct. I will  
> implement a action plan to correct this incident. This is starting with  
> proper communications to all delivery couriers.  
>  
> Mike Bohan wrote:  
>  
>> Dear Mr. Brown,  
>>  
>> I'm writing this message to you, to confirm our earlier conversation,  
>> concerning delivery of radioactive material packages at Yale-New Haven  
>> Hospital (YNHH). In response, you said that you would develop an action  
>> plan to prevent recurrence of this problem. In order to assist you in  
>> this process, I will re-describe the problem and some of the measures we  
>> have taken here at YNHH to prevent recurrence.  
>>  
>> On March 25, 2003, at 9:45 AM a FedEx delivery person attempted to  
>> deliver two radioactive "Yellow II" packages to the YNHH Radiation  
>> Safety Office (RSO). Unfortunately, no one from the RSO or the  
>> Radiological Physics Department was there to accept the packages and  
>> place them securely in the Hot Lab. The doors to the YNHH RSO and Hot  
>> Lab are posted with instructions and pager numbers to contact in the  
>> event that no one was present to receive the packages and place them in  
>> a secure area. The delivery person did not follow this procedure and  
>> went down the hallway to another department, not connected to the  
>> Radiological Physics Department and apparently had someone sign for the  
>> packages. The delivery person then walked down the hallway and placed  
>> the radioactive packages in the hallway outside the Hot Lab, unsecured.  
>> Fortunately, personnel from the YNHH RSO returned within a short time,  
>> discovered the shipment in the hallway and safely placed the shipments  
>> in our Hot Lab.  
>>  
>> In response to this incident, the YNHH RSO has already talked with the  
>> delivery person regarding this incident and re-educated him to our  
>> radioactive materials delivery policy and procedure. In addition, we

> > will educate all other delivery personnel about these policies and  
> > procedures as they are newly identified on a continuing basis. We have  
> > also revamped our posted policy notice on the doors to make them more  
> > readily apparent.  
> >  
> > We would like you to assist us in our efforts to maintain hazardous  
> > materials security within the Yale Medical Center Campus by educating  
> > your delivery personnel that hazardous materials packages cannot be left  
> > in unsecured areas. The requirement for security is inherent in these  
> > type of shipments. That is why when we ship radioactive materials via  
> > FedEx to other institutions, we always insist that they are picked up  
> > directly in the Radiation Safety Office. We cannot drop these materials  
> > off at the general FedEx drop off sites, because we need to maintain  
> > security until we deliver them directly to FedEx pickup personnel.  
> >  
> > Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and I would  
> > appreciate a copy of the action plan you develop, for my information.  
> > Hopefully, our mutual cooperation in this matter will help prevent any  
> > malicious or accidental diversion of hazardous materials and ensure the  
> > homeland security so important to us all in these troubled times.  
> >  
> > Sincerely,  
> >  
> > Michael J. Bohan  
> > Radiation Safety Officer  
> > Yale-New Haven Hospital  
> > Radiological Physics  
> > 20 York St. – WWW 204  
> > New Haven, CT 06510  
> > Tele: (203) 688-2950  
> > Fax: (203) 688-8682  
> > E-mail: mike.bohan@yale.edu

**From:** Mike Bohan <mike.bohan@yale.edu>  
**To:** Richard McKinley <rwm1@nrc.gov>

**Date:** Mon, Apr 14, 2003 2:08 PM  
**Subject:** [Fwd: Email to Homeland Security]

Richard,

I'm also forwarding to you a copy of an e-mail that I sent to the Dept. of Homeland Security through their Web Site. I sent this copy to myself because their Web Site didn't allow me to cc: myself and it used their own comment system that didn't use my e-mail application.

Regards,

Mike Bohan

Mike Bohan wrote:

>  
> I'm contacting the Dept. of Homeland Security to mention a recent  
> "incident" that occurred at my institution, Yale-New Haven Hospital  
> (YNHH). A vendor had shipped two  
> radioactive "Yellow-II" packages that contained 311 mCi and 436 mCi of  
> Iridium-192 respectively.  
>  
> Although we usually have a number of personnel available to receive  
> radioactive packages during normal delivery times, on this particular  
> day no one with access to our Hot Lab was available upon the couriers'  
> arrival. The courier apparently went down the hall and had someone, not  
> directly associated with the Radiation Physics Department, sign for the  
> package. The courier, then placed the packages in the hallway,  
> immediately outside the Hot Lab door and left them unattended in a  
> hallway accessible to the general public. Fortunately, in this  
> instance, personnel from the Radiation Safety Office arrived within  
> approximately 15 minutes and the sources were safely placed in a secure  
> area (the Hot Lab).  
>  
> Considering the current world situation, homeland security concerns and  
> NRC regulations, regarding security and the potential diversion of  
> medical use  
> radioactive materials for use in a radiological "dirty" bomb, this  
> incident has caused considerable concern.  
>  
> We have already contacted the individual courier and instructed  
> him to release radioactive packages only to individuals who can place  
> the packages into  
> a secure location upon delivery. However, considering this incident in  
> a broader context, we believe that the Dept. of Homeland Security might  
> be able to instruct courier services nationwide that hazardous materials  
> packages should not be left in insecure areas. They may pose an  
> opportunity for certain people to obtain materials that may be diverted  
> for terrorist uses.  
>

> We suggest that it might be helpful for the Dept. to send an  
> informational notice to delivery courier services regarding this  
> scenario. It may help improve our national homeland security in these  
> troubled times. Currently, courier services are perfectly happy to have  
> anyone sign for a package so they can drop it off as quick as possible.  
> However, when hazardous materials are involved they should be held to a  
> higher standard.  
>  
> We have already addressed this issue to the courier service involved and  
> have asked them to address this on a national level but a notice from  
> your agency might address this issue to all courier services. Thank you  
> for your attention to this important matter.  
>  
> Sincerely yours,  
>  
> Michael J. Bohan  
> Radiation Safety Officer  
> Yale-New Haven Hospital  
> Radiological Physics  
> 20 York St. - WWW 204  
> New Haven, CT 06504  
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