

# EVENT REPORT COVER PAGE

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Agreement State

Texas Incident No.: **I-8353**

Event Report ID No.: TX 06 42727  
(State\Yr.\No.)

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FAX to: (301) 816-5151 NRC / (208) 526-0990 INEEL  
Telephone:(301) 816 5100 NRC OPS CENTER

E-mail to: R. Ratliff, A. Rogers, R.McBurney, Thomas Cardwell,  
R.Free, William Silva,

From FAX: (512) 834-6622

Date: Tues, 07/25/06

To: Director: Office of State and Tribal Programs /  
Dante Huntsman, NMED Project

SUBJECT: Significant Event Report (24-hour Notification)

STATE: Texas

Signature and Title: Ruben Cortez, Incident Investigator

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES  
Inspection Unit  
Radiation Branch  
Incident Investigation Program

**Preliminary, Not for Public Disclosure**

**FAX TO: NRC OPERATIONS CENTER  
(301) 816-5151**

**Agreement State Agency:** TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES,  
Investigation Unit,  
Radiation Branch

**Texas Incident No.:** I-8353

**Event Report ID No.:** TX-06-42727

**License No.:** N/A

**Licensee:** N/A

**Event date and time:** 7/25/06 1150

**Report received date:** 7/25/06

**Event location:** LaTourneau, Inc.  
2400 South McArthur Blvd  
Longview, TX 75601

**Event type:** Radioactive material found

**Notifications:** NMED, DSHS Incident Investigation staff

**Event description:** Radioactive Cesium-137 was inadvertently pasted though a smelting facility.

On Friday, July 21, 2006, a truck containing electric arc furnace (EAF) dust departed the LeTourneau, Inc facility at 2400 South McArthur Blvd., Longview, TX. The dust is commonly referred to as K061 waste and is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste that is a normal byproduct of steel production. A gate monitor alarmed at the Horsehead Resource Development Company, Inc. (Horsehead) in Rockwood, TN, indicating the possible presence of gamma emitting radioactive elements contained in the truck. An alarm of this type is typically associated with the melting of a volatile radioactive source.

The truck was returned over the weekend of July 22 - 23, 2006 to the LeTourneau facility in Longview, TX, where it was isolated. On Monday July 24, 2006 LeTourneau obtained the services of a consultant to identify the material in the truck. Surveys of the truck by LeTourneau, on the morning of July 25, 2006, indicated the presence of Cesium-137 in the K061 waste. Cs-137 is a byproduct material that is commonly used in sources and devices that are distributed under both general and specific licenses for various industrial applications.

After determining that the K061 in the truck was contaminated with Cs-137 a full survey of the furnace facility was performed and samples collected to quantify the activity of Cs-137. Radiation survey of the facility determined that exposure level in the facility ranged from 50  $\mu$ R/hr to 3000  $\mu$ R/hr. Highest readings were in the ash hopper and silo. LeTourneau does not believe that there were any significant doses to their employees or public; do to the location of the highest reading. LeTourneau plans to have result for the samples collected before the end of the week.

LeTourneau notified the State immediately after determining that the K061 was contaminated with Cs-137.

**Transport vehicle description:**

**Media attention:** none

**Point of contact:** **Ruben Cortez, (512) 834-6770 ext. 2004**

