



KAW VALLEY ENGINEERING, INC.

July 25, 2014

NRC Event Number: 50308  
Point of Contact Event reported to: Donald Norwood  
Reported 7/25/14 0930 Eastern Time

Company: Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.  
2319 N. Jackson Street  
Junction City, KS 66441  
Phone: 785 762-5040  
Fax: 785 762-7744  
Point of Contact: Steven Hall, [hall@kveng.com](mailto:hall@kveng.com)

License No. 15-26870-01  
Leon D. Osbourn, P.E., R.L.S, Radiation Safety Officer

Sealed Source Device: Troxler 3430 Moisture Density Gauge  
Serial Number: 36100  
Radionuclide: CS-137; Serial Number 77-3229; 9 millicuries  
Radionuclide: Am-241/Be; Serial Number 78-991; 44 millicuries

The following is the type event narrative from the employee involved. A scanned copy of the original statement is attached in the email:

On 24 July 2014 at approximately 10:00 AM, I pulled my company truck into the parking lot of Corvias Military Living job trailer on Ernie Pyle Drive, Ft. Riley, KS. A uniformed soldier on a motorcycle stopped and notified me that he had observed a yellow nuclear density gauge box fall off the open tailgate of my truck, across the street from the Camp Forsythe Fire Station. I returned to that location, approximately one mile away, immediately. I observed Ft. Riley Fire Department personnel gathered around the box and density gauge, which was in the box. They informed me they had recovered the gauge and the box, which still contained the gauge. I was later informed that they had called and notified Kaw Valley Engineering of their find. They relinquished the box and gauge to me, and I locked the gauge in the box, then locked the box containing the gauge into a metal box fastened to the bed of my company truck. A Kaw Valley field tech brought another gauge to me and returned the gauge that fell from the truck to KVE's lab for leak tests to be performed. At no time was the source rod unlocked during this incident. The gauge had been placed in the box, which was on the open tailgate, after performing the daily standard counts. The gauge was inadvertently left on the tailgate while answering a job-related call on my phone, which was in the cab of my truck. I

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other locations


Kansas City, Missouri • Lenexa, Kansas • Salina, Kansas

neglected to lock the gauge box, and lock it into the metal box, before driving away. I was not in possession of the nuclear density gauge for approximately 8-10 minutes.

James F. Lee  
(Signature)

When talking to Mr. Lee, he conveyed to me that the fire department personnel at that station just happened to be doing their nuclear training that day and were able to perform a survey on the gauge to detect radioactivity and the results did not exceed normal. Back at our lab another survey was performed on the gauge with a TroxAlert survey meter with results normal. A leak test was performed and sent to Troxler for analysis. The gauge was inspected for any damage, and there was no damage to the gauge. The gauge case had some scuff marks from asphalt contact, but the integrity of the case is intact to design and use standards. The gauge will remain out of use in our nuke vault until leak results are received from Troxler. KVE personnel who are occupational gauge users are monitored with TLD badges from Troxler that are exchanged quarterly.

The individual operator, Mr. James F. Lee will be counseled on his responsibilities and appropriate disciplinary action taken. Additionally, each gauge operator will receive an additional hour of training in the subjects of radiation safety, proper transportation, accountability of gauges, and emergency procedures.



Steven Hall  
ARSO  
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.

SBH:sbh  
Enclosures



**KAW VALLEY ENGINEERING, INC.**

Junction City, KS Ph 785-762-5040  
Kansas City, MO Ph 816-468-5858  
Lenexa, KS Ph 913-894-5150  
Salina, KS Ph 785-823-3400

Job \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Calculated by JAMES F. LEE Date 24 JULY 14  
Checked by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Scale \_\_\_\_\_

ON 24 JULY 2014 AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 AM, I PULLED MY COMPANY TRUCK INTO THE PARKING LOT OF CORNIAS MILITARY LIVING SUB TRAILER ON ERNIE PYLE DRIVE, FT. RILEY, KS. A UNIFORMED SOLDIER ON A MOTORCYCLE STOPPED AND NOTIFIED ME THAT HE HAD OBSERVED A YELLOW NUCLEAR DENSITY GAUGE BOX FALL OFF THE OPEN TAIL GATE OF MY TRUCK, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CAMP FORSYTH FIRE STATION. I RETURNED TO THAT LOCATION, APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE AWAY, IMMEDIATELY. I OBSERVED FT. RILEY FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL GATHERED AROUND THE BOX AND DENSITY GAUGE, WHICH WAS IN THE BOX. THEY INFORMED ME THAT THEY HAD RECOVERED THE GAUGE AND THE BOX, WHICH STILL CONTAINED THE GAUGE. I WAS LATER INFORMED THAT THEY HAD CALLED AND NOTIFIED KAW VALLEY ENGINEERING OF THEIR FIND. THEY RELINQUISHED THE BOX AND GAUGE TO ME, AND I LOCKED THE GAUGE IN THE BOX, THEN LOCKED THE BOX CONTAINING THE GAUGE INTO A METAL BOX FASTENED TO THE BED OF MY COMPANY TRUCK. A KAW VALLEY FIELD TECH BROUGHT ANOTHER GAUGE TO ME AND RETURNED THE GAUGE THAT FELL FROM THE TRUCK TO KVE'S LAB FOR LEAK TESTS TO BE PERFORMED. AT NO TIME WAS THE SOURCE ROD UNLOCKED DURING THIS INCIDENT. THE GAUGE HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE BOX, WHICH WAS ON THE OPEN TAIL GATE, AFTER PERFORMING THE DAILY STANDARD COUNTS, THE GAUGE WAS INAPPROPRIATELY LEFT ON THE TAIL GATE WHILE ANSWERING A JOB-RELATED CALL ON MY PHONE, WHICH WAS IN THE CAB OF MY TRUCK. I NEGLECTED TO LOCK THE GAUGE BOX, AND LOCK IT INTO THE METAL BOX, BEFORE DRIVING AWAY. I WAS NOT IN POSSESSION OF THE NUCLEAR DENSITY GAUGE FOR APPROXIMATELY 8-10 MINUTES.

JAMES F. LEE  
*James F. Lee*



Client Contact and Telephone Message

Date 7/25/14 Project N/A Proj. No. N/A  
Time 8:30 AM Name of Contact DONALD NORWOOD  
Personal Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Company NRC  
Telephone 3018165100 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail hoo.noc@nrc.gov

Call was:  Mine  Theirs  Return Call

Subject: NUCLEAR GAUGE INCIDENT FT. RILEY, KS 7-24-14

CALLED NRC TO REPORT NUCLEAR DENSITY GAUGE INCIDENT ON FT. RILEY 7-24-14.

POINT OF CONTACT DONALD NORWOOD, HE ASSIGNED A TIME OF 0930 EASTERN TIME AND NRC EVENT NUMBER OF 50309. AFTER EXPLAINING THE INCIDENT TO HIM, HE ASKED ME TO SEND A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT TO HIM VIA EMAIL. THE REPORT WAS EMAILED TO THE NRC hoo.noc@nrc.gov

THE REPORT DOCUMENTS AND EMAIL ARE FILED BELOW THIS CONTACT SHEET IN THIS FILE.

AS OF 3:00 PM 7-25-14 THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE BACK FROM THE NRC.

By: Steve Hill

This form is to be completed and filed in project correspondence for all items affecting the project in any manner. Deliver to Project Manager for review and filing.

cliecont 12.09