



April 27, 2018

U.S. NRC  
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Rockville, MD 20852  
[hoo.hoc@nrc.gov](mailto:hoo.hoc@nrc.gov)

ATTN: Ms. Bethany Cecere

Re: Report of Event  
Desert NDT, LLC dba Shawcor  
RAM License No. 42-35224-01

Ms. Cecere:

Herewith, please find information regarding a source retrieval incident our company is reporting under 10 CFR 30.50(b)(2).

Description of Incident:

On Thursday, April 26, 2018, a crew was performing radiographic operations. At approximately 12:30 p.m. (CST), the crew experienced an incident wherein a 2" diameter, 8' long pipe rolled off a 2 ½' tall table and fell off the table, resulting in the guide tube being used by the crew to be smashed between pipe. The dent in the guide tube prevented the source from being returned to the fully shielded position.

Exaction Location of Event:

Pennsboro, WV

Licensed Material Involved:

SPEC-150 Exposure Device (s/n 2056)  
SPEC G-60 Source (s/n ZA0905)  
Ir-192  
45 curies

Date of Time of Event:

The event occurred on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at approximately 12:30 p.m. (CST).

Corrective Action Taken/Planned:

To immediately correct the problem and retrieve the source, allowing it to be returned to the fully shielded position, the black sheathing on the outside of the guide tube was removed in the damaged area. Using a hammer, the damaged area was rounded out enough to allow the source to be returned to the fully shielded position.



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The guide tube involved in this incident has been removed from service and will be destroyed as to prevent it from being reused.

Retraining on these types of situations will be provided to all employees, and this incident specifically, will be discussed during this quarter's safety meetings within all company locations.

To prevent a reoccurrence of an incident of this type, we have made plans with the company for whom we were providing radiography for will stage and brace piping moving forward.

Extent of Exposure:

The personnel responsible for performing source retrieval recorded a total dose of 60 mR during the retrieval.

As soon as this event occurred, the crew performing radiographic operations immediately reassessed and set up appropriate 2 mR/hr boundaries, notified their Site RSO and Branch Manager, and maintained constant visual surveillance until source retrieval personnel arrived at the jobsite. At no time were any unmonitored employees in any immediate danger of being overexposed, nor were any of our company personnel, all of whom were utilizing proper radiation detection equipment.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (325) 437-1093 or via e-mail at [lane.watts@shawcor.com](mailto:lane.watts@shawcor.com).

Thank You,

Lane Watts

Corporate Radiation Safety Officer

## Statement for Source Incident at East Mountain Project for Schwob

At 12:18pm on April 26<sup>th</sup> I received a call from level II inspector Tyler Edwards stating that his source was stuck out. He stated that a pipe had rolled off a nearby table and smashed the guide tube preventing the source capsule from being retracted into the shielded position within the camera.

Trevor Doucet and myself gathered tools and equipment and proceeded to the site approximately three hours from the Sewickley office. While in route we had to make a couple of stops to purchase lead shot bags for shielding and some hand tools.

We arrived on site at 5:05pm and contacted Tyler. Tyler presented a picture depicting the location of the damaged area on the guide tube and the approximate location of the source capsule. With a calibrated survey meter, I approached the area to evaluate the situation. I walked 360 degrees around the area to locate the lowest dose area for me to approach the damaged area. Tyler had placed a board and several sand bags on the guide tube to help cutdown the dose.

Once I evaluated the situation I formulated a plan to retrieve the source.

- The first step was to verify if the source was cranked out into the collimator. Once I verified that the source was within the collimator I tried to crank the source back into the camera and within three cranks the source would not move. Then I cranked the source back into the collimator. By doing this it also gave me an approximate location of the damaged area in the guide tube.
- Step two: I needed to rearrange the sand bags and the board to visually see the damaged area of the guide tube. I rearranged the sand bags to uncover the board and place them on the location of the collimator to help cut the dose down. Surveying the sand bags, the dose was still extremely high and I stepped back to a safe location. I then had the crew retrieve several more sand bags to help with the dose.
- Step three: I used an eight-foot piece of rebar to push the board off the guide tube so I could see the damaged area. Once the damaged area was visible I returned to a safe location.
- Step four: I re-approached to rearrange the sand bags and place the lead shot bags directly onto the collimator and then restacked the sand bags on top of the lead shot bags. By doing this it allowed me to approach the damaged guide tube from the back side with a dose of 60mR at the damaged area.
- Step five: I approached the damaged area and attempt to round out the area with a hammer. Then I went back to the crank handle and attempted to return the source to its fully shielded position and it still would not return.
- Step six: I re-approached the damaged area and cut away the black sheathing on the guide tube to expose the damaged area. Using a pair of pliers and the hammer I was able to round out the damaged area better. I returned to the cranks and was able to return the source back to the shielded position within the camera.

Once the source was safe in the camera I re-examined the area to determine the cause of the pipe rolling off the table. The table was severally overloaded with 36 pipes on the wooden table causing it to bow in the middle. There was a two by four on one end of the table for a brace but not on the end near the crew working. Trevor and I discussed this with the Schwob Safety representative and he stated that

there would be some changes on how job site personnel would stage the piping and brace the piping moving forward.

The Schwob safety rep did praise the radiography crew on how they handled the situation. He stated that the crew immediately shutdown work in the area, advised all personnel within the nearby trailers to stay where they were and the boundaries were extended as necessary. The crew monitored the boundaries until Trevor and myself arrived on site.

Jabin Parsley

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018