

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

February 23, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-30

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: St. Mary's Hospital (LN 06-00679-01)
Waterbury, Connecticut

Subject: MISSING PACKAGE CONTAINING 300 MICROCURIES OF IODINE-131

A licensee representative reported that an unopened package labelled radioactive, containing 20 capsules, each containing 15 microcuries of Iodine-131, is missing. The missing package was delivered, signed for by a hospital employee at 5:30 a.m., on February 19, 1979, and was left lying on a counter in the Emergency Ward. When the Nuclear Medicine personnel looked for the package after 8:00 a.m., it could not be found. A search of the hospital did not locate the package.

The shipper, Mallinckrodt Nuclear, St. Louis, Missouri, has confirmed the isotope and activity. The carrier, United States Priority Transport Company, Huntington Station, New York, has confirmed their driver possesses a signed receipt for the package.

The iodine-131 capsules do not present a threat to individuals. Ingestion of the capsules would not deliver a medically significant dose to an individual's thyroid.

Media interest is not expected because of the small quantity of radioactive material involved. The State of Connecticut has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee or NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Nuclear Medicine Chief Technician at 2:15 p.m., February 22, 1979.

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