

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-86

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

Facility:
Del-Med, Inc.
South Plainfield, New Jersey

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: UNAUTHORIZED DELIVERY AND POTENTIAL LOSS OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AT DEL-MED, INC.

Del-Med, Inc. is a common carrier, which transports radioactive materials between suppliers and authorized users.

On October 17, 1989, at approximately 5:15 p.m., the NRC Region I office was notified by the Del-Med Radiation Safety Officer that a package containing one millicurie of Iodine-131 was missing. The package was received at the South Plainfield facility with a large shipment from Mallinckrodt between 10:30 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. on October 16, 1989, according to Del-Med's receipt records. The package, which was to be delivered to Peninsula General Hospital, Salisbury, Maryland, was not loaded into the Del-Med vehicle bound for Maryland during the early morning loading. Del-Med was notified by Mallinckrodt (the radioactive materials supplier) at about 8:30 a.m. on October 17, 1989, that the package was never received by the hospital in Maryland.

Region I was also notified of potential unauthorized delivery of radioactive material to the Del-Med facility in South Plainfield. On October 6, 1989 at about 3:00 p.m., Del-Med personnel were informed by Medi-Physics that an anonymous telephone call informed them that a large box of radioactive material was sitting, unsecured, at the back of the Del-Med facility in South Plainfield. Del-Med personnel responded and upon search of the area in back of the facility, found a package marked radioactive material. They retrieved the package, and found it to be a spent Molybdenum-99 generator from Long Beach Memorial Hospital, Long Beach, New York. The package was placed in a secured location in the facility. The package was sealed and intact, with no visible signs of damage. Del-Med personnel estimated that the package was at the back of the facility for no more than five hours. It is not known how the package was picked up from Long Beach Memorial Hospital, nor how it was delivered to the Del-Med South Plainfield facility.

Del-Med contacted the New Jersey State Police, the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Radiological Controls, and the South Plainfield police. In accordance with the 24 hour notification requirement, the Department of Transportation will be notified regarding the missing Iodine-131 package.

Region I has contacted the States of Maryland, New York and New Jersey. The Region is dispatching a Health Physicist to the Del-Med facility in South Plainfield to review these incidents.

This information is current as of 8:00 a.m., October 18, 1989.

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CONTACT: Jean Gresick
FTS 346-5382

M. Shanbaky
FTS 346-5209

Lee Bettenhausen
FTS 346-5251

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