

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-91

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: *32-21345-FLMD*
Mallinckrodt, Incorporated
Diagnostic Imaging Services
#19 Independence Court
Folcroft, Pennsylvania 19032
DN 030-20537

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

Subject: VEHICULAR ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS
(TECHNETIUM-99M, IODINE-131, and IODINE-123)

On November 16, 1989 at 6:15 a.m., the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Duty Officer informed the Region I Duty Officer that a vehicular accident had occurred involving the transportation of radiopharmaceuticals. The accident occurred about 5:42 a.m. on Interstate 95 South in Chester, Pennsylvania near Kerlin Street. The car was carrying several packages of radiopharmaceuticals which contained technetium-99m (Tc-99m), iodine-131 (I-131), and iodine-123 (I-123). The maximum activity contained in any one package was 396 millicuries of Tc-99m and approximately 10.9 millicuries of I-131. Civil Defense, the County Emergency Response Team, and the County Fire Marshall immediately responded to the accident. A radiological survey of the outside of the vehicle carrying the radiopharmaceuticals was performed by both the Civil Defense representative and the Mallinckrodt representative and no contamination was found. The driver was injured and was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. The radioactive material was recovered from the accident vehicle by Mallinckrodt, Incorporated and one package was reported broken open. The vehicle was removed from the scene and is being stored at the Chester Police Impound Lot.

NRC Region I dispatched inspectors to the hospital and to the accident scene to assist with radiological surveys and assessment of the accident. The driver was not determined to be badly injured and was in stable condition when the Region I inspector arrived at the hospital about 8:30 a.m. No contamination was found on the driver or in the hospital areas where he was treated. Subsequent surveys of the vehicle by the Region I inspector confirmed that no contamination was present.

Based on information available at 10:30 a.m., this occurrence is not considered to be a health and safety hazard to the public.

Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

NRC Region I will maintain close contact with the licensee and will review this incident at the next scheduled inspection. The State of Pennsylvania is aware of the incident.

CONTACT: S. Courtemanche M. Shanbaky
 215-337-5075 215-337-5209

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PDR I&E
PNO-I-89-091 PDC

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Region I Form 83
(Rev. April 1988)