

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-92

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:
SynCor, Incorporated
106 Commerce Road
Stamford, Connecticut 06902
DN 030-30648

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

Subject: THEFT AND ACCIDENT OF VEHICLE INVOLVING RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS
(TECHNETIUM-99m)

On November 19, 1989 at 3:00 p.m., the Stamford Fire Department notified the Region I duty officer of the discovery of radioactive material in a reported stolen vehicle. The automobile had last been utilized by licensee personnel on November 18, 1989 for the delivery of radiopharmaceuticals and the pick-up of expended radiopharmaceutical syringes containing trace quantities of radioactive material (technetium-99m). The driver left the returned radioactive material in the locked delivery vehicle and left the facility. At 4:30 a.m. on November 19, 1989, a pharmacist arriving on site observed that the delivery vehicle was missing and after investigation, determined that the vehicle had been stolen. The apparent theft was reported to the Stamford Police Department.

At 3:30 p.m., the licensee was notified by the fire department that the stolen vehicle had been involved in a single-vehicle accident and that fire department personnel had found packages bearing radioactive material labels. Witnesses reported the driver abandoned the accident scene. The Region I duty officer and the cognizant Region I section chief followed developments and provided technical assistance to fire and police personnel on site. The licensee and the State of Connecticut dispatched personnel to the accident site. Surveys of the vehicle and the packages detected no radiation levels in excess of background. An inventory by licensee personnel accounted for all of the packages which were then recovered and returned to the licensee's facility.

Based on the information available as of November 20, 1989 at 2:00 p.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 the incident at the next scheduled inspection. The State of Connecticut is aware of the incident. The licensee will submit a written report to Region I detailing this incident within 30 days.

CONTACT: J. Pelchat M. Shanbaky
FTS 346-5048 346-5209

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Region I Form 83
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