

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: September 5, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURENCE--PNO-III-80-171

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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 as of this date.

Facility: Caspersen, Inc.
Glencoe, IL

Subject: APPARENT THEFT OF A MO-99/TC-99m GENERATOR

Region III (Chicago) was informed on September 4, 1980 by Caspersen, Inc. of the apparent theft of a spent molybdenum 99/technetium-99m generator which was picked up by Caspersen, Inc., a contract carrier, from the Lakeside VA Hospital in Chicago and stored in a garage on the Northwest side of Chicago pending return to Mallinckrodt, Inc. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Caspersen, Inc. reported the apparent theft to the Chicago Police Department.

Caspersen informed RIII the generator contained 28 microcuries of radioactive material on August 29, 1980, however, when RIII contacted the Lakeside VA Hospital on September 5, 1980 it was learned the generator contained about 8 millicuries of Molybdenum-99 and about 8 millicuries of technetium-99m.

Preliminary estimates by RIII indicate that no significant exposure would result from handling the generator unless it was disassembled and the lead shielding was removed. At one inch from the surface of the unshielded resin column the estimated radiation level would be about 1.85 R/hr.

There has been no media interest, however, RIII will issue a press release.

The State of Illinois has been informed.

Initial information was reported to RIII by Caspersen, Inc. at 3:00 p.m. CDT on September 4, 1980 and this information is current as of 11:50 a.m. on September 5, 1980.

Contact: W. H. Schultz, RIII 384-2515 A. B. Davis, RIII 384-2510

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