

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

X005

Date: July 29, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURENCE--PNO-III-80-141 Page 1 of 2

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: Pharmatopes
Oak Park, MI
License No. 21-17189-01MD

SUBJECT: LOST 100 MILLICURIE TECHNETIUM-99m SOURCE

Region III (Chicago) was informed that a 100 millicurie dose of Tc-99m in a 4 inch high by 2 inch lead container was lost in the parking lot of the Detroit Central Hospital. A delivery driver for Pharmatopes attempted to deliver the dose and found the Nuclear Medicine Department closed. The driver returned to the car, placed the container with the dose on the bumper of the car and dropped the car keys on the ground. The driver picked up the keys and drove away, forgetting the container on the bumper. The driver did not report the loss for several hours because of fear of the consequence.

The material presents no hazard as long as it remains in the shielded container. Because of the six hour half life of Tc-99m, the material will have decayed almost completely away in 2-3 days. A hazard would result only if the vial were removed from the shield and held in contact with the skin. In this case a total contact dose as high as about 40 Rems could result with an average whole body exposure of about 300 millirems. The exposure would be in excess of 10 CFR 20.105 limits but not high enough to produce a detectable biological effect.

The local police, hospital security and the State of Michigan have been informed. On the Region's recommendation, the licensee will issue a press release. Region III does not plan a press release at this time.

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Region III received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the facility manager at 3:25 p.m. (CDT) on July 29, 1980. The Headquarters Duty Officer was notified at 3:55 p.m. (CDT).

Contact: C. J. Paperiello, RIII, 384-2511; A. B. Davis, RIII, 384-2510.

Distribution: Transmitted H St. 4:25
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