

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

X005

Date: July 16, 1980

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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, Incorporated
Chicago, IL
License No. 12-19333-01MD

SUBJECT: REPORT ON POSSIBLE THEFT OF BYPRODUCT MATERIAL FROM A HOSPITAL

Region III (Chicago) was informed today that byproduct material delivered to a hospital between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. on July 16, 1980, was inadvertently taken from the premises between the time of delivery and 7:55 a.m.

The Manager of Pharmatopes Incorporated notified RIII that a five inch deep, Samsonite type briefcase, containing approximately 90 millicuries of technetium-99m (in four syringes) and about 14 microcuries of iodine-131 (in a diagnostic capsule), each individually shielded, were delivered to a hospital in Winfield, IL. When hospital personnel subsequently opened the briefcase, they discovered that it contained only day-old, used syringes. This hospital was not able to contact and inform the licensee until approximately 7:55 a.m. on July 16, 1980, because telephone service had been interrupted by a storm.

The quantities of materials involved would provide four diagnostic examinations using technetium-99m and one using iodine-131. Injection/inhalation of this technetium would result in a dose of about 1.5 rems to the whole body and about 7 rems to the lungs. Ingestion of the iodine-131 would result in a dose of 26 rems to the thyroid.

Pharmatopes Incorporated suspects that the briefcase was inadvertently taken by another nuclear pharmacy firm whose delivery personnel may have made an exchange of the briefcases in error. The hospital had recently changed nuclear pharmacy suppliers. The licensee also believes the material will turn up at or by a local law enforcement agency. Region III was informed that the Pharmatopes Incorporated delivery service made a stop at another hospital prior to the hospital in Winfield, IL.

Region III has dispatched personnel to the hospital to investigate this occurrence and to meet with hospital personnel and a representative from Pharmatopes Incorporated.

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There has been no media interest; neither the licensee or Region III plans a press release at this time.

Region III will continue to follow this situation.

The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Radiological Health, has been notified.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 8:20 a.m. (CST) on July 16, 1980. This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. on July 16, 1980.

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