

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: February 18, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURENCE--PNO-III-81-19 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: Pharmaco Nuclear, Inc.  
Cleveland, OH  
License 34-16405-01MD

SUBJECT: REPORT OF A MISSING ATTACHE CASE CONTAINING BYPRODUCT MATERIAL

Region III (Chicago) was informed that seven attache cases containing byproduct material fell out of a Pharmaco Nuclear vehicle between 5:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. EST on February 17, 1981, while in transport to Cleveland area hospitals. Six of the attache cases were immediately recovered by the driver and delivered to the hospitals.

The last case containing 90 millicuries of technetium-99m and three 100 microcurie capsules of iodine-123 was overlooked and found by a passerby. The passerby took the attache case to a nearby gas station, where the attendant contacted the local police. The police responded to the incident and contacted Pharmaco Nuclear. A Pharmaco Nuclear driver surveyed the attache case at the gas station and no apparent contamination was found on the inside or the outside of the case. The case was delivered to Lakewood Hospital in Lakewood, Ohio (suburb of Cleveland).

Region III is considering enforcement action.

There has been no press interest. Neither the licensee nor Region III plans a press release.

The State of Ohio Department of Radiological Health has been informed.

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Region III received notification of this occurrence by telephone from Pharmaco Nuclear at 10:30 a.m. CST on February 18, 1981. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. February 18, 1981. The licensee stated they would inform the Department of Transportation of the incident.

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