

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 staff on this date.

Facility: Nuclear Medicine Associates, Inc.  
 9726 Park Heights  
 Cleveland, Ohio  
 License No. 34-16272-01

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

30-10703

Subject: STOLEN CALIBRATION SOURCES

A medical consultant reported the theft of a briefcase containing three sealed calibration sources from his car. The incident occurred between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. on August 3, 1982 in the parking lot of Bothwell Memorial Hospital, Sedalia, Missouri. The sources were New England Nuclear, Type E vials (about 1-1/4 inches in diameter by 2-1/2 inches high) containing 200 microcuries of Cs-137, 960 microcuries of Co-57, and 200 microcuries of Ba-133, respectively. The sources are all epoxy encapsulated and do not present an internal exposure hazard. The briefcase was not labeled; however, each source contains a "Caution Radioactive Material" label.

Within the briefcase each vial is encased by lead shielding. The maximum radiation level on the outside surface of the briefcase is less than 0.5 mR/hr. The maximum surface reading from any single vial, as determined by the licensee's measurement of similar vials, was 180 mR/hr from the Cs-137 source. This would only present a radiation hazard if carried in close contact with an individual for several hours, which is unlikely considering the side of the vials and their labeling.

The Co-57 isotope is subject to State regulatory jurisdiction. The State of Missouri has been notified. The licensee has also notified the local police department. The licensee will submit a 30 day report.

There has been no media interest. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans a press release at this time. However, Region III (Chicago) will respond to inquiries.

Region III received initial notification of the loss by telephone from the licensee at approximately 11:00 a.m. (CDT) on August 4, 1982. This information is current as of 11:45 a.m. August 4, 1982.

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