

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: St. Elizabeth Medical Center
601 Miami Boulevard West
Dayton, Ohio 45408
License No. 34-02176-01

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

30-12065

Subject: LOST IRIDIUM-192 SEEDS

Forty-eight (48) iridium-192 seeds used for brachytherapy treatment of a patient at St. Elizabeth Medical Center of Dayton, OH have been reported lost. The seeds were removed from the patient on June 5, 1982, and the patient released from the hospital on the following day. The seeds totaled 40.42 mCi on 6/2/82 and were incorporated in six "ribbons". After removal from the patient, the seeds were placed in a transporting container by the Radiation Therapist. The therapist delivered the container to the Radiation Therapy Department and left it there pending storage of the seeds. Radiation survey of the patient's room on June 7, 1982, showed no lost seeds. The seeds would have read approximately 200 R/hr at one centimeter, and therefore, could have caused substantial exposure if kept in close proximity to an individual.

Some time during the first or second week in July, the physicist discovered the seeds were missing and started an initial search. When unsuccessful in locating them he notified the therapist on 9/3/82. Additional searches have also been unsuccessful. Region III is sending two inspectors to the hospital to assist in the search.

There has been no known media interest concerning this event. Neither Region III nor the licensee has issued a news release at this time, but this matter is currently being discussed with the licensee.

The State of Ohio has been notified.

Region II received notification of the loss by telephone from the hospital administration at 2:30 p.m. (CST) September 27, 1982 with follow-up information received at 2:10 p.m. (CST) September 28, 1982. This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. (CST) September 29, 1982.

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