

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9419

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 Region I staff on this date.

## Facility:

Department of the Army  
Redstone Arsenal  
Huntsville, Alabama

## Licensee Emergency Classification:

Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

Docket No.: 030-29741

License No.: 29-01022-14

Event No.: N/A

Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: INCINERATION OF CHECK SOURCES

At 11:15 a.m. on March 17, 1994, Region I received a telephone call from Barry Silber, Chief, Radiological & Environmental Engineering Division, Dept. of the Army, Ft. Monmouth, NJ, informing the NRC that the Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL, a location under the Ft. Monmouth License No. 29-01022-14, inadvertently incinerated at least two, wand type, check sources containing 5 mCi each of krypton-85 (Kr-85). The sources were from metal boxes containing army survey instruments plus various accessories and the check source.

The Redstone Arsenal RSO identified the incineration at about 4:30 p.m. on March 16, 1994, finding the remains of two of the wand type source containers in the ashes from the fire. The incident occurred during a routine disposal of clean trash by burning in a burn-pit. The licensee stated that they do not believe this to be of any radiological consequence. Army procedures require the removal of all check sources from the instrument prior to the disposal.

The incident is currently under investigation by the Sandstone Arsenal personnel to determine the causes for this loss of control over radioactive material.

Region I considers this incident is of minimal radiological consequence. However, the loss of control of radioactive material is a significant issue and Region I and II will continue to follow the Army's investigation of this incident.

Region II and the State of Alabama have been notified.

The media has not been informed.

This information is current as of 1:00 p.m. on March 18, 1994.

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Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)

\*\* General list for sending PNs by FAX