

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: Non-licensee
Private Resident of
Berkley, Michigan

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

Subject: DECAYED RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS FOUND IN PRIVATE RESIDENCE

Region III was notified by the Michigan Department of Public Health on September 8 and 9, 1982, of the discovery of several boxes of radiopharmaceuticals in a private citizen's garage. A former sales representative of Medi-Physics had previously lived at this location. The packages (all originating at Medi-Physics facilities in California or New Jersey) included: 10 boxes of iodine-123 capsules; 7 vials of xenon-133 (10 millicuries each); 13.2 millicuries of gallium-67; and a 2.5 curie Mo-99/Tc-99m generator. All packages were calibrated for December 1976 through June 1981, and have all since decayed to background radiation levels. The Michigan Department of Public Health confiscated the materials from the garage in Berkley (near Detroit), Michigan on September 3, 1982. The local police department and Medi-Physics were notified by the State. The addressees of the packages were various hospitals in Michigan and northeastern Ohio.

NRC Regions I and V will be contacted to assist in obtaining more information from the respective Medi-Physics offices.

There has been no media interest. Neither the State of Michigan, Medi-Physics nor the NRC plan a press release at this time. However, Region III will respond to inquiries.

Region III received followup notification by telephone from the Michigan State Department of Public Health at approximately 11:00 a.m. (CDT) on September 9, 1982. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. (CDT) September 9, 1982.

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