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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-90-46 Date: November 8, 1990

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 Region V staff on this date.

FACILITY: Agreement State: California
Anaheim Memorial Hospital
Anaheim, CA.
License: #1555-30 (Hospital)

Therapeutic Nucleonics
Valencia, CA.
License: #4038-70 (Manufacturer)

Federal Express
6401 W. Imperial Highway
Los Angeles, CA. (Common Carrier)

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

SUBJECT: LOSS OF BRACHYTHERAPY SOURCES DURING TRANSIT

On Friday, November 2, 1990, Anaheim Memorial Hospital packaged 2-50mCi, 3-25mCi, and 2-12mCi (total 199mCi) Cs-137 sealed source brachytherapy needles in an authorized DOT shipping container and shipped them to Therapeutic Nucleonics, the manufacturer, by Federal Express. The DOT container arrived at the manufacturer Monday, November 5, 1990, and was first opened November 6, 1990, Tuesday afternoon. The 7 sealed sources were not in the container and the manufacturer immediately called the Los Angeles County Health Department, who under contract to the State carries out the Agreement State responsibilities for California in Los Angeles County.

The County immediately traced the shipment to the Federal Express transfer location in Los Angeles and sent an inspector to investigate. Using a survey instrument, the inspector found 5 of the missing sources scattered on the floor under the conveyor and the remaining two on a shelf where the employees had stored them. The inspector then isolated the area and called the manufacturer who retrieved the sources. The potentially exposed personnel were sent for medical evaluation. DOT has been contacted and with the State is conducting a complete investigation. The jurisdiction for this incident resides with the State and DOT.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only and is current as of 4:30 P.M., November 8, 1990.

CONTACT: J. Hornor RV, (FTS 463-3760) and R. Pate RV, (FTS 463-3752).

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