

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-90-101

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:  
James M. Brown, M.D.  
109 South Munn Street  
East Orange, New Jersey  
Docket No. 030-09588

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

Subject: FIRE AT NRC LICENSED MEDICAL FACILITY

Region I was notified by the State of New Jersey, Bureau of Environmental Radiation at 11:30 a.m. on November 26, 1990 of a major fire at the Medical Arts Building in East Orange, New Jersey. The building includes a facility licensed by the NRC for materials identified in 10 CFR 35.100 and 35.200, excluding technetium-99m generators, for medical diagnostic studies. The fire occurred on November 23 at 2:00 a.m. According to the East Orange fire department, the building sustained substantial damage. Most likely, the third floor of the structure, on which the licensed facility was located, collapsed with radioactive material and equipment dropping to the ground floor. Contact made with the licensee at 2:00 p.m. on November 26 indicated that two iodine-131 capsules for use in thyroid uptake studies, each in the microcurie activity range, a 5 millicurie cobalt-57 and a 200 microcurie cesium-137 calibration source, were present at the time of the fire. After the fire, the East Orange Police and Fire Departments ordered no entry into the building pending completion of Fire and Police Departments investigation.

The Region has dispatched an inspector to the facility to perform a radiological survey in conjunction with the State of New Jersey, East Orange fire department, and the licensee. The NRC inspector will provide technical assistance to the local authorities, perform a review, and assessment of potential radiological consequences of the fire.

Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 2:00 p.m., November 26, 1990.

CONTACT: Mohamed Shanbaky                      Steven Courtemanche  
                  215-337-5209                              215-337-5075

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