

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNI-9411

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:
Syncor Corporation
Fairfield, New Jersey

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

Docket No.: 030-18966
 License No.: 29-19608-01MD
 Event No.: NONE
 Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: DELIVERY VEHICLE CONTAINING RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS OVERTURNED
ON A NEW JERSEY ROADWAY

At 8:50 a.m. on February 8, 1994, the State of New Jersey notified NRC Region I of a transportation accident involving a delivery vehicle containing radiopharmaceuticals from Syncor (Fairfield, NJ). According to the Senior Pharmacist of Syncor, the vehicle was on its way to deliver radiopharmaceuticals to seven different customers in the area. The vehicle had already made deliveries to four of these customers and was on its way to the next stop when it overturned near exit 157 (Hawthorne, NJ) of the Garden State Parkway. At the time of the accident, the vehicle contained 158 millicuries of technetium-99m products and approximately 289 microcuries of iodine-123 (in capsule form). All packages containing the radiopharmaceuticals were still intact and no radioactive material appears to have been spilled on the road or in the vehicle. The vehicle also contained empty lead containers that were picked up by the driver at her prior stops. These empty containers were scattered outside the overturned vehicle on the road. A nuclear medicine technologist from Wayne General Hospital responded to the accident and performed radiological surveys of the injured driver. The driver was not contaminated and has been hospitalized at Wayne General Hospital.

The Radiation Safety Officer of Syncor was dispatched to the scene and conducted radiation surveys of the vehicle and the surrounding areas. New Jersey State Police on the scene blocked the road and the vehicle was being removed from the scene of the accident. A representative of the State Board of Emergency Response of the State of New Jersey was dispatched to the scene and performed surveys which confirm that no radiation levels existed and no radioactive contamination occurred as a result of this accident.

This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. on February 8, 1994. Region I will follow up on the incident. Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

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