

CEM

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: Pharmatopes, Inc.
10646 Northend
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

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

DKN 30-12332
LIC 21-17189-01MD

Subject: STOLEN RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL

A medical consultant reported the theft of a briefcase containing a radiopharmaceutical from his car. The incident occurred at about 11:00 a.m. on December 6, 1982, in the parking lot of Conner Clinic, Detroit, Michigan. The radiopharmaceutical consisted of one syringe containing 30 millicuries of technetium-99m intended for Detroit Osteopathic Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. Within the briefcase the syringe is encased by a lead container. The briefcase, container, and syringe, were all labelled as "Radioactive Materials" and listed Pharmatopes, Inc. name, location, and phone number.

The maximum radiation level on the outside surface of the briefcase is less than 0.5 mR/hr. The maximum surface reading from the syringe was calculated to be 22 R/hr. The half life of technetium-99m is 6 hours. Considering the extensive labelling, the source configuration, and the short half-life of the material, significant personnel exposure appears unlikely. Licensee representatives are performing a search of the area where the vehicle was parked.

The State of Michigan has been notified. The licensee has also notified the state police department. The licensee will submit a 30 day report.

There has been no media interest. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans a press release at this time. However, Region III (Chicago) will respond to inquiries.

Region III received initial notification of the loss by telephone from the licensee at approximately 11:00 a.m. (CST) on December 6, 1982. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m., December 6, 1982.

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