

July 15, 1998

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE

PNO-IV-98-031

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 Region IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

Facility

Ricker, Atkinson, McBee & Assoc.
Temporary Job Site, Az
2105 Hardy, Ste. 13
Tempe, Arizona 85282

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

On July 15, 1998, representatives of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency notified Region IV staff that a portable moisture density gauge was reported stolen by an Arizona licensee. The licensee, Ricker, Atkinson, McBee & Associates, provided telephone notification to the state on the morning of July 15 that a portable gauge was stolen from the cab of a truck parked in Mesa, Arizona. A licensee employee had secured the gauge within its transport container and chained it in the cab of the vehicle for overnight storage. The gauge, a Troxler Model 3401-B, Serial Number 14117, contained 296 megabequerels (8 millicuries) of cesium-137 and 1.5 gigabequerels (40 millicuries) of americium-241.

The Mesa Police Department has been notified and is investigating the theft. The state has also provided notification to the states of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and California.

Region IV received notification of this event by telephone and facsimile at 2:00 p.m. (CDT) from Arizona representatives. NMSS and OSP have been informed. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. (CDT) July 15, 1998.

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