

*See - file* *PAC Advance copy*  
*per: J Rathje*

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

October 5, 1976

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-76-166

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event 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 IE staff on this date.

Facility: Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Illinois  
License No. 12-621-3

Subject: PACKAGES CONTAINING IODINE 125 DAMAGED IN TRANSIT  
IN HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, ON OCTOBER 4, 1976

The licensee informed IE:III by telephone at 10:20 a.m. on October 5, 1976, that a number of radioactive diagnostic kits had fallen from a carrier's vehicle in Highland Park, Illinois at approximately 7:30 p.m. on October 4, 1976. A total of seven packages containing less than 100 microcuries of I-125 were recovered by the Highland Park police and subsequently picked up by the licensee.

Licensee personnel surveyed the police vehicle and the officer who had handled the packages and no activity was detected. Licensee personnel also surveyed the roadway where the packages were recovered during the night and detected no activity.

The licensee determined the exact route of the carrier's vehicle and conducted a physical search of the route during daylight on October 5, 1976.

As of 1:05 p.m. on October 5, 1976, the licensee reported approximately 31 microcuries of iodine-125 are still unaccounted for. The iodine is contained in small glass and/or plastic vials which contain from one to four microcuries each. The shipping departments of both the licensee and the carrier are continuing their review of shipping documents in an effort to identify the total number of packages unaccounted for.

Search conditions have been hampered due to almost continuous rain in the area. The licensee has made no news release and indicated he does not plan to make a news release. He also reported that the Highland Park police indicated they did not plan to make a news release.

IE:III has notified the Illinois Department of Public Health and Regional Department of Transportation.

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IE:III received preliminary information from the licensee about this event at 10:20 a.m. on October 5, 1976. The details of the event concerning results of followup actions and quantity of radioactivity involved was obtained at 1:05 p.m. on October 5, 1976.

Contact: RFWarnick, IE x27261 GWRoy, IE x27261 DThompson, IE x27541

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Transmitted: PBldg 450/p; H St. 454/p; MNBB \_\_\_\_\_; Luge \_\_\_\_\_;

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