

January 20, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-00-006

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

California Licensee
Mallincrodt
Glendale, California
License No: 3219-19

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: TRANSPORTATION EVENT INVOLVING A SPILL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

This Preliminary Notification provides the results of the California Radiation Health Branch's (CRHB) actions for an event that occurred on January 14, 2000, involving the spill of radioactive material on a California freeway in Glendale, California. The CRHB notified the NRC Operations Center of the event on January 14, 2000.

On January 14, 2000, at 6:00 a.m. (PST) the California State Highway Patrol informed the CRHB of the radioactive material spill and requested their assistance. The accident involved a Mallincrodt radiopharmaceutical delivery vehicle and an automobile. The vehicle contained 44,400 megabecquerels (1.2 curies) of technetium-99m (Tc-99m) and 1,110 megabecquerels (30 millicuries) of thallium-201 (TI-201). Some of the containers were broken and the contents spilled onto the freeway. The State dispatched three inspectors to the scene. (One of the inspectors arrived by 6:30 a.m. (PST).)

It was determined that the spill involved approximately 1,110 megabecquerels (30 millicuries) of Tc- 99m. None of the TI-201 containers were broken. The CRHB successfully decontaminated the area and the freeway was opened by Noon PST. No individuals were contaminated and no significant exposures were reported.

Region IV notified the OEDO, OSP, NMSS and OPA on January 14, 2000.

This information has been discussed with the State of California and is current as of 2:30 p.m. (CST), January 18, 2000.

Contact:

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