

# PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Yankee

Date: February 27, 1980

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-80-37

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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 as of this date.

### SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT

A Cassperson Inc. truck containing 10 boxes of nuclear medicine radioisotopes from Mallinckrodt Co. of St. Louis, MO, destined for 8 hospitals in the Milwaukee, WI area, was involved in an accident at 27th and Capitol Street in Milwaukee, WI, at 2:02 a.m. CST on February 17. The truck was severely damaged and was towed to a junk yard with its cargo intact. The driver was hospitalized.

Prior to the towing, a member of the Milwaukee Fire Department (FD) determined the boxes on radioisotopes showed no external signs of damage. The boxes were surveyed at the junk yard to assure current radiation levels matched the original readings as recorded on the shipping labels. The surveys were performed by members of the local civil defense unit and Milwaukee FD. Mallinckrodt Co. released the shipment for delivery based on these survey results before notifying Region III (Chicago) of the State of Wisconsin.

Region III (Chicago) notified the State of Wisconsin of the incident.

Mallinckrodt Co. notified each recipient hospital of the accident and instructed them to take extra precautions when opening the packages. Region III verified, by telephone, the notification and instructions given by Mallinckrodt to the hospitals.

There is no word yet as to the junk yard after the shipment was released by Mallinckrodt Co. A press release is being considered by Mallinckrodt Co. Region III is not planning to issue a press release.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only and no further action by IE is anticipated. Region III was notified of the incident at 8:00 a.m. CST, February 20, 1980, by a telephone call from Mallinckrodt Co. The information is current as of 2:02 a.m. CST.

Source: D. J. Staniewski, 384-2513; A. S. Davis, 384-2510.

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