

December 16, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-96-084

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 II staff in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

Birmingham Central Pharmacy, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Birmingham, Alabama
License No: AL-1168

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: MEDIA INTEREST IN RADIOPHARMACY CONTAINERS

On December 16, 1996, Alabama, an Agreement State, notified Region II concerning media interest in a labeled radiopharmaceutical package found at a service station in Auburn, AL. The package (an ammo box) contained 5 doses of technetium-99m that had decayed to background. The material originally was sent to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL on November 15, 1996. The package was picked up by the Radiopharmacist in his personal vehicle on November 16, 1996. The package was never unloaded from the vehicle, and the vehicle was driven to a residence located in Auburn, AL on December 13, 1996. The vehicle was then taken to a service station for service and cleaning, and the package was inadvertently left at the service station.

The Alabama Division of Radiological Health has the incident under investigation. Initial information indicates that there was no release of material or excessive exposure to any individual. The event was reported in the news media.

This information is current as of 2:00 p.m., December 16, 1996.

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PDR I&E
PNO-II-96-084 PDR

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