

December 18, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-96-068

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Agreement State Licensee	Notification of Unusual Event
United Metro Materials, Inc.	Alert
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2140	Site Area Emergency
License No: 7-227 (AZ)	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) reported that a Troxler asphalt content gauge, Model 3241C, was stolen from a trailer at San Xavier Rock and Materials in Tucson. The gauge contains a 100-millicurie americium-241 sealed source. The device, which was stored within its case in the locked trailer, was stolen before 6:00 am on December 17. The licensee had posted security personnel on site until 5:00 am that day. The Marana, Arizona, Police Department is investigating, and the ARRA has dispatched an investigator to the site. Also stolen from within the trailer was laboratory and computer equipment. A truck was also stolen from the site.

The ARRA has notified Mexico and the states of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and California.

A Tucson newspaper is expected to publish an article on the theft today. The NRC received notification of this occurrence by a telephone call to the Headquarters Operations Officer from an ARRA official at 5:59 pm EST on December 17.

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