

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AUG 15 1960

LAR:ID:WET

Rechart No. 27-7

Isotopes Specialties Company
Division of Nuclear Corporation
of America, Inc.
170 West
Burbank, California

Attention: Mr. Alfred J. Moses

Gentlemen:

On August 9, 1960, an explosion occurred in Boston, Massachusetts on the premises of the Cross Roads Marine Company which operates a disposal service for various kinds of waste materials.

The material involved was zirconium scrap from an electronics firm. The explosion occurred when water in which the scrap was immersed to prevent chemical reaction leaked out from a drum accidentally punctured during handling.

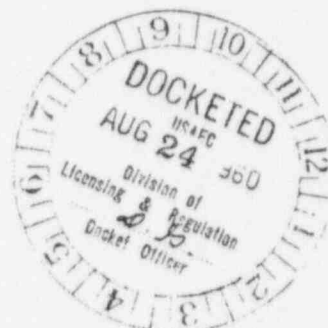
Because the firm is licensed to handle low-level radioactive waste materials, the AEC's Radiological Assistance Network was immediately activated.

It was determined that no radioactive material was involved. An AEC inspector has determined that there was no violation of Commission regulations or license conditions and that none of the zirconium scrap involved was stored among drums of radioactive waste materials.

The zirconium explosion occurred in drums located several hundred feet from the site where sealed drums containing low-level radioactive wastes are stored by the firm. Drums awaiting encasement in concrete are required to be stored in a brick building. Only after such encasement are the concrete packages permitted to be stored in the fenced area around the building.

Port and municipal authorities are conducting an inquiry. The AEC is notifying other firms engaged in industrial disposal operations and licensed to provide radioactive waste disposal services of the accident as a precautionary measure.

In another case, a drum containing sodium with residual radioactivity ruptured with minor consequences.



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You are requested to re-examine the precautions that you are taking to keep hazardous industrial materials separate from low-level wastes handled under your AEC license, and to segregate such materials in the event that they are included among wastes received under your license.

It is requested that you advise us promptly of the procedures that you employ.

Sincerely yours,

R L Kirk

R. L. Kirk
Acting Director
Division of Licensing and Regulation

