

February 6, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-97-008

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>
Kansas University Medical Center	Notification of Unusual Event
Kansas University Medical Center	Alert
3901 Rainbow Blvd.	Site Area Emergency
Kansas City, Kansas 66620	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: THERMOLUMINESCENT DOSIMETER EXPOSURE

On February 5, 1997 a representative of the Bureau of Air & Radiation from the state of Kansas notified Region IV of a reported potential Thermoluminescent Dosimeter (TLD) over exposure. Kansas University Medical Center representatives reported to the state that an employee's TLD had been exposed to 30.1 REM. The TLD had belonged to a female employee, who is now 4 months pregnant and no longer employed at the Medical Center. Review of the female's activities during the time of the film badge exposure indicated that the employee was not in the laboratory.

Further investigation by Medical Center personnel revealed that both the female and her husband work in the laboratory and the husband had inadvertently used her badge while cleaning up a contaminated centrifuge. Radioisotopes used in the lab are phosphorus 32, sulphur 36 and tritium. The exposure may have occurred from a P 32 source. The maximum activity at any one time of phosphorous 32 is 500 microcurie with individual vials containing no more than 250 microcurie/20 milliliter. The quarterly DDEs for other laboratory personnel were minimal. Medical Center representatives are investigating the exposure and communicating with the female.

The state of Kansas is following the Medical Center's investigation.

Region IV offered assistance to the state. The state has declined any assistance at this time. Region IV has informed NMSS and OSP.

This information is current as of 10:01 a.m. on February 6, 1997.

Contact: Charles Hackney
(817)860-8267

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