

December 5, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-85-60

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 the Region IV staff on this date.

FACILITY: Basin Industrial X-Ray, Inc.
Midland, Texas
(Texas Agreement State
Licensee)

Licensee Emergency Classification:
☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: RADIOGRAPHY SOURCE DISCONNECT RESULTING IN AN OVEREXPOSURE

On December 4, 1985, the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control (TDH/BRC) notified Region IV, State and Governmental Affairs Staff that Basin Industrial X-Ray, Inc., was working in Midland, Texas, and had a source disconnect from a 76 Curie Ir-192 radiography camera.

The TDH/BRC stated that apparently the incident occurred on November 9, 1985, when a friend of a radiographer, who was working as an assistant radiographer, was performing radiographic work when the crankout cable broke (directly behind the connector). The friend received 128 rem to the whole-body, based on film badge reading. It is estimated that the exposure to the extremities was much greater.

According to the TDH/BRC, the friend has been to the hospital and was reported to have symptoms of nausea. In addition, a blister on the palm side of the left hand was identified. The individual is currently receiving medical attention and has verbally agreed to let the TDH/BRC review the individual's medical records. The physician in attendance had not spoken with the TDH/BRC investigators at the time of this notification.

The TDH/BRC has been able to get in contact with the radiographer who is currently working for another radiography company called Eagle Inspections Company (a Louisiana Agreement State licensee), working in Wyoming.

The TDH/BRC has the lead in this incident and is continuing the investigation. The NRC, Region IV, State and Governmental Affairs Staff will continue to monitor this incident. Neither the state nor the NRC plan to issue a press release. No media interest has been evident.

This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. (CST), December 5, 1985.

CONTACT: R. S. Heyer, RIV, 728-8252

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