

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF WASTE, AIR, RADIATION, AND REMEDIATION
BUREAU OF RADIATION PROTECTION
HARRISBURG, PA 17101**

December 14, 2018

DEP INFORMATION NOTICE 2018-06: RECENT INDUSTRIAL RADIOGRAPHY
EVENTS INVOLVING UNATTENDED
CATEGORY 2 MATERIAL

ADDRESSEES

All Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) industrial radiography licensees.

PURPOSE

The DEP is issuing this Information Notice (IN) to alert licensees to recent events that resulted in industrial radiography workers violating 10 CFR Part 37.53(b) and 10 CFR Part 37.49. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar incidents. Recommendations contained in this IN are not new requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Within the last two months, the Commonwealth has become aware of two serious events involving radiography workers failing to properly maintain security of Category 2 radioactive material. One event was discovered within Pennsylvania and the other was a Pennsylvania licensee working under reciprocity within a non-agreement state.

DISCUSSION

These events had several contributing factors in common. Both events were very similar in circumstance and included radiography employees failing to properly disable their vehicle when the vehicle was not under direct control and constant surveillance by the licensee as required by 10 CFR 37.53(b). There was also a failure to continuously monitor and detect unauthorized entries into security zones as required by 10 CFR 37.49. In the first of these two events the licensee stopped to refuel, left the keys in the unlocked truck, and both the driver and passenger left the vehicle unattended while they entered the convenience store. While they were both inside, the truck, containing a Category 2 source, was stolen. The licensee immediately notified local law enforcement and the truck and source were recovered approximately 3 hours later. The second event involved a radiography licensee stopping at a convenience store for food, again while leaving the truck disarmed, unlocked, and windows down with a Category 2 source inside. Both the driver and the passenger were inside the convenience store when the truck was noticed by a PA DEP materials inspector who promptly cited the licensee.

The Department is issuing this notice to stress to all licensees the importance of the safety requirements and regulations that are in place because of the high potential dose hazard

associated with an uncontrolled industrial radiography. A typical source can produce unshielded dose rates which can exceed the annual whole-body dose limit in less than a minute at a distance of one foot.

CONTACTS

This Information Notice requires no specific licensee action or response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact the Radiation Control Division at 717-787-3720.

*Issued by
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