



KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT
BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR
Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

May 2, 2001

**KANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE 01-05: POTENTIAL HAZARDS DUE TO
VOLATILIZATION OF RADIONUCLIDES**

Addresses

All U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees that process unsealed byproduct material.

Purpose

The Kansas Radiation Control Program received the enclosed notice from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to alert addressees to the potential hazards associated with the volatilization of radiochemicals and/or radiopharmaceuticals if containment is breached during chemical or physical processing.

Description of Circumstances

In August of 1999, NRC conducted a special inspection to review the circumstances of a similar accident at a radiopharmacy. The incident occurred while the licensee was using a heating block to process 35 gigabecquerels (950 millicuries) of Tc-99m in 1.3 milliliters of Cardiolite solution. The vial ruptured, and the heat from the block caused the liquid to volatilize, spreading contamination in the laboratory as well as to unrestricted areas throughout the pharmacy.

Discussion

See the attached NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 2000-16 dated October 5, 2000

This information notice does not require any specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please do not hesitate to contact this office.