

Nuclear gauge run over by roller



Details

In August 2013, a steel drum roller made contact with a Nuclear Gauge following a miss-communication between the Technician and the Roller Operator.

As a result of the contact made to the \$20,000 Nuclear Gauge it was damaged irreparably.

Immediate action taken:

1. The Nuclear Gauge removed to side of road, covered with topsoil and an exclusion zone established
2. Monitoring conducted to measure radiation levels
3. Queensland Health notified of the incident

Explanation

- Nuclear Gauges should never be left unattended
- Exclusions zones around Nuclear Gauges need to be maintained at all times
- Appropriate signage / warning devises (i.e. flagged dune poles) need to be in place to notify personnel that a Nuclear Gauge is being used in the area

Safety Tips

1. Ensure all users of Nuclear Gauges have been appropriately trained:
 - Are they qualified Radiation Safety Officers?
 - Do they understand the contents of the Radiation Safety & Protection Plan?
 - Do they understand how to safely transport and use a Nuclear Gauge?
 - Do they know what to do in an emergency situation?
2. Ensure SWMS / SOP details the safe use and transport of Nuclear Gauges. Control measures to consider include:
 - 3 meter exclusion zone around Nuclear Gauge (except Laboratory Technician)
 - Identification of the positioned Nuclear Gauge by placing: (a) technicians ute and radiation signage / flagged dune pole (located on a sandwich board) either side of the Nuclear Gauge, or (b) two signposted sandwich boards / flagged dune poles either side of the Nuclear Gauge, or (c) gauge transportation trolley and signposted sandwich board / flagged dune on either side of the Nuclear Gauge
3. All users of Nuclear Gauges to be trained in the contents of the “Safe Use and Transport of Nuclear Gauges” SWMS / SOP
4. Ensure all users of a Nuclear Gauge understand the emergency procedures relating to a radiation incident
5. Conduct regular emergency drills simulating a radiation incident

AAPA has prepared this Safety Alert from industry safety alerts and incident reports to provide assistance to members and the public in general. This Safety Alert is a reference point and should be combined with other information sources, relevant government legislation and other industry related materials in risk and hazard identification and in developing safety practices, policies and procedures.