



WARNING RADIATION DANGER



IMPORTANT

- Only calibrated radiation monitoring equipment can measure radiation correctly.
- Uncontrolled/unprotected exposure to man made radioactive sources is extremely dangerous (possible death).
- Any man made radioactive sources found outside the equipment protective shields are extremely difficult to identify visually.



GENERAL

- Unusually heavy metal objects (lead, tungsten, depleted uranium) may contain radioactive sources.
- A radioactive source found in the recycled metal supply stream or in a melting furnace may cause substantial financial loss.
- Area contamination, caused by an erupted source, may result in serious risk to the health of any person exposed to the radiation as well as financial loss.
- Radioactive sources in recycled metal have resulted in several fatal and serious permanent injuries.



RADIATION INJURIES

- Radiation doses from different types of radioactive sources, delivered to different parts of the body, can cause different types of health effects. A very high radiation dose delivered to the whole body can cause death within weeks whereas a very high dose to a limited area of the body might not prove fatal.
- It is important to note that radiation injury has no special signs and symptoms. Diagnosis and treatment of radiation injuries are difficult and require expert knowledge.
- Following a high-level accidental exposure to radiation, injuries evolve over time. The intensity of the symptoms and time elapsed before the occurrence thereof depends on the radiation dose and the duration of the exposure.
- Local skin injuries, usually evolving over weeks to months, may become very painful and are difficult to treat.
- A local radiation exposure, depending on dose, can produce signs and symptoms in the exposed area such as redness of the skin, pain, blistering, tissue death, nausea or gangrene.



THE ACTUAL RADIOACTIVE SOURCE IS VERY SMALL



The actual radioactive source inside the items shown on the photos is very small and in the shape of a tiny cylindrical stainless steel capsule (about 5mm x 10mm or smaller).

RADIOACTIVE SOURCES ARE WIDELY APPLIED IN MANY INDUSTRIES:

- Radioactive sources are used widely throughout the world in a variety of medical, industrial, agricultural, research and military applications.
- In sealed sources the radioactive material is permanently sealed in a capsule. Unsealed sources occur in powder or liquid form in a bottle inside a lead container.
- Problems can arise if radiation sources are involved in accidents, if they become damaged, lost, stolen or otherwise out of proper control. This can lead to injuries to persons who come into contact with them.
- Due to the wide application of sources accidents can occur as a result of poor management or sometimes because of bad judgement.



- Don't touch or pick up suspicious items.
- Don't open, process or destroy suspicious containers.
- Stay as far away from suspicious items as possible.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Supervisor: _____

SAPS Bomb Squad: _____

Department of Health: _____

National Nuclear Regulator: _____



Damaged Soil Gauge



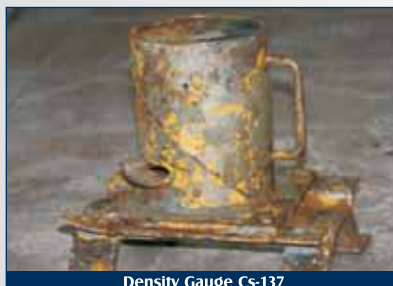
Damaged Source Outside Shield



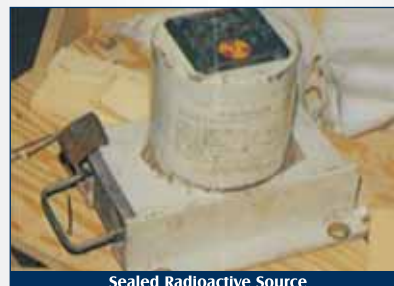
Damaged Soil Gauge Rod Outside Shield



Source Housed In Protective Shield



Density Gauge Cs-137



Sealed Radioactive Source

In emergency immediately contact local SAPS Bomb Squad