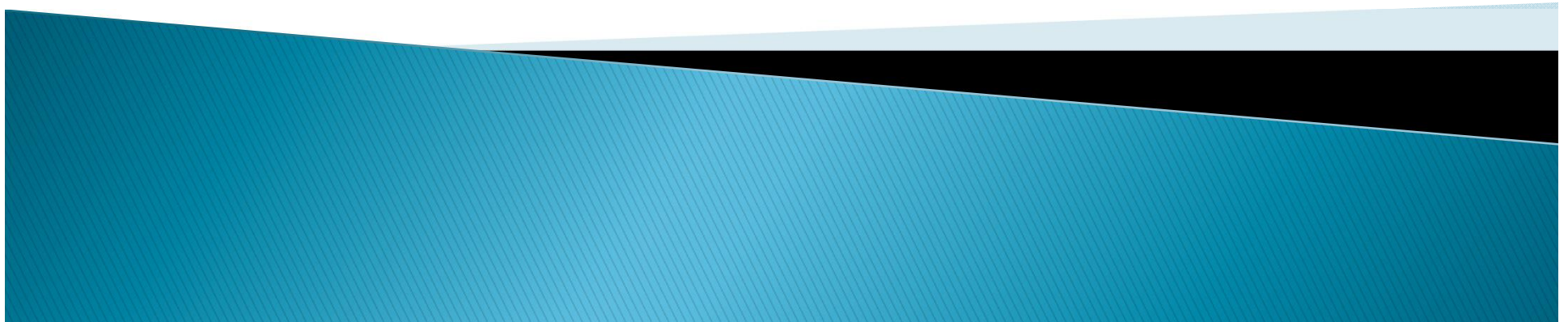


Bankruptcy, Fire, and GL Devices



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Definitions

Henri = RSO for bankrupt mine owner

Albert = RSO for new owner of GL equipment



It all Started With a Bankruptcy

- ▶ Company had 22 GL devices at 2 mines
- ▶ 8 Cs-137 sources of 100–500 mCi
- ▶ 4 Am-241 sources with 100 mCi each
- ▶ Inspected in August, 2016
- ▶ Declared bankruptcy soon thereafter



New Owner

- ▶ Purchased equipment at both facilities in February, 2018
- ▶ RSO from previous owner was not hired by the new owner
- ▶ Inventoried all sources
- ▶ All sources accounted for
- ▶ Several Sources found in an unlocked conex



New Owner

- ▶ Plant scheduled for disassembly the next day
- ▶ Notified of a fire the night before
- ▶ 2 sources involved in the fire
 - 500 mCi Cs-137
 - 200 mCi Cs-137
- ▶ Decided to move all 22 GL sources to a more secure site



State Response

- ▶ We were notified of the events the day after the fire
- ▶ Gauges were scattered on the floor
- ▶ Many had no shutter locks
- ▶ Some shutters were open
- ▶ Two source holders appeared charred



State Response



- ▶ 1.5 R/hr @ contact, 40 mR/hr @ 1 foot
- ▶ Notified owner of the issue

Owner Response

- ▶ Placed device in shielded storage mode
- ▶ Contacted the manufacturer
- ▶ Manufacturer recommended disposal
- ▶ Device was picked up for disposal on March 23 by Chase Environmental



Issues

- ▶ GL devices were not all securely stored
- ▶ GL registrations are site specific
- ▶ Shutters were not closed or locked
- ▶ Gauges were not prepped for shipment
- ▶ Gauges were transported by an untrained, unlicensed entity



Lessons Learned

- ▶ This could have happened with GL or SL
- ▶ GL's will perform licensed activities, often out of ignorance
- ▶ Good intentions aren't always the best pathway



Closing Statements

- ▶ Could such events be avoided?
- ▶ What can we, as regulators, do?



?Questions?



*Why doesn't a
woodpecker
get a headache
from banging
its head into
the tree all day?*