Bankruptcy, Fire, and GL Devices

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Definitions

Henri = RSO for bankrupt mine owner

Albert = RSO for new owner of GL equipment
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
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?