

INES Rating Form

Event Title:	Stolen Radiography Camera
Date of Event:	27 February 2025
Event Location/ Facility Name	Kernersville, North Carolina / IQS Inspections
Event Country:	United States of America
Type of Event:	Radiation Source

INES Rating:	2
Status of Rating:	Provisional
Date of Rating:	7 March 2025

Impact on People and Environment		
<i>Release beyond authorized limits?</i>	☐	
<i>Overexposure of a member of the public?</i>	☐	
<i>Overexposure of a worker?</i>	☐	
Impact on the Radiological Barriers and Controls at Facilities		
<i>Contamination spread within the facility?</i>	☐	
<i>Damage to radiological barriers (incl. fuel damage) within the facility?</i>	☐	
Degradation of Defence In-Depth?	X	
Person injured physically or casualty?	☐	
Is there a continuing problem?	☐	

Event Description:

On 27 February 2025, a radiography camera containing 2.738 TBq (74 Ci) of Ir-192 was reported stolen from a licensee's truck. On 26 February 2025, the radiographer stayed the night at a hotel in Kernersville, NC and discovered the next morning that the camera was missing. The radiographer had not followed approved procedures for securing the camera. They immediately notified North Carolina state authorities and local law enforcement. A search of the area was performed but the device could not be located. Hotel surveillance camera footage was reviewed but did not provide any useful information. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services issued a press release (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2025/02/28/ncdhhs-issues-alert-missing-radioactive-material-triad-area>) to warn the public of the potential danger of the device and to contact authorities if it is found or anyone has knowledge of its location. North Carolina state regulators and law enforcement investigations are ongoing. Based on activity, the source involved was Category 2.

NRC EN57574

Justification of INES Rating:

A Level 2 is warranted for a stolen Category 2 source not yet recovered. See Section 4.2.2 INES User's Manual 2008 Edition (IAEA-INES-2009) http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/INES-2009_web.pdf.

Further Info on Web (URL):	
Contact Person:	Todd Smith
Affiliation/Organization:	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Email:	Todd.Smith@nrc.gov
Telephone:	301-816-5100

Organization Website URL:	www.nrc.gov
---------------------------	--