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Subject: Yellow Alert: Work Planning Issues

Title: Lessons Learned From TS5 Incident

Date: June 7, 1999 Identifier: 1998-OH-FDF-0046

LESSONS LEARNED STATEMENT: When planning work organization, supervisors and workers must consider the potential impact to enriched restricted materials when activities are performed in the vicinity of enriched restricted materials containers.

DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITIES: Fluor Daniel Fernald (FDF) workers were in the process of loading drums of nuclear materials into sea land containers. Due to the inclement weather, the sea land container was positioned at the roll-up door on the east side of Tension Support Structure #5 (TS-5), to facilitate the loading of dry drums into the sea land. Normally, the sea land is positioned on the pad away from the overhead door. The loading of the sea land involves the movement of skids of drums from the T-Hopper Project from TS-4 to TS-5. In TS-5, the drums are staged for loading. A truck driver moves the drums to the sea land, one drum at a time. Prior to placement, the fork truck driver sets the drum down so that an operator can rotate the drum to the correct position for placement in the sea land container. Once the container is rotated, the fork truck driver picks up the drum and places it into the sea land container.

ANALYSIS: The rotation of the drum is completed using a tool that grips onto the lid bolt ring. However, on this day, the tool slipped on the bolt ring causing the operator to step back to catch his balance. When he stepped back, the operator bumped into the shipment inspector. The shipment inspector tripped on a curb and fell back onto a skid containing enriched restricted drums. As a result of the shipment inspector falling into the drums, the drums were moved out of position, which resulted in a spacing violation. While attending to the fallen shipment inspector, no one noticed that the drums had moved.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Planning for activities involving enriched restricted materials needs to take into consideration the conditions where the work will be performed, e.g., limited space, other critical activities/requirements such as spacing requirements, and non-routine location.
2. Work organization for these activities needs to take into account the same type of conditions such as location of the shipment inspector and adequate/appropriate tools for the job.
3. When working in an area, everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings, so as not to cause any impacts to other activities.

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REFERENCES: Occurrence Report Number: OH-FN-FDF-FEMP-1998-0020