

THE INSIGHT

Well Loggers Versus Wildcatters

We've all heard the stories about how cavalier the old-school well loggers were when it came to safety. Radioactive sources carried around on the front seat of the truck or even more disturbing, in the loggers coverall pocket.

As consultants to the wire-line industry, Applied Health Physics has witnessed our share of good and not so good work practices. Lets start off with the good: The majority of licensees we work with do a fine job of following the rules. Due to more focus on ALARA practices,

exposures are very low. Inspectors in the north-east are increasing their activity and expect the well logging industry to comply with state and federal regulations.

What are areas that could use improvement?

- ◆ Material Security
- ◆ DOT Labeling
- ◆ Documentation
- ◆ Training

Federal and state regulatory agencies stress the proper security of radioactive sources during storage and transport. Each licensee is responsible for inspecting the

security of licensed material containers.

DOT labeling must be conspicuous, legible and contain the correct information.

Logging trucks transporting sources must have copies of shipping papers, materials license, current leak test certificate and operating and emergency procedures.

Annual training of logging supervisors and assistants is required and **should** emphasize these aspects as well as reporting any potential issues of non-compliance.

Upcoming Articles and News

- ◇ Updates on the reactor accident in Japan
- ◇ Preparing for a regulatory inspection
- ◇ Who needs training in radiation safety?

Upcoming Training Dates

RSO Training – 24 hour
May 9 – 11, 2011

RSO Refresher – 8 hour
May 16, 2011



Just A Thought

The recent nuclear crisis in Japan has sparked a keen interest in the acquisition of handheld, as well as fixed, position radiation survey equipment. Survey meter manufacturers such as Ludlum, SEI International and Fluke have been selling instruments like the proverbial hotcakes.

Here is the problem; the published levels of radioactivity currently identified in the continental United States are miniscule. The majority of survey instruments purchased by the public will not measure at those levels. As radiation safety professionals we should spread the word that the biggest risk we are exposed to from ionizing radiation continues to be smoking and chewing tobacco products.