



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT ON ABNORMAL OCCURRENCES FOR FY2009

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has released its annual report on abnormal occurrences for fiscal year 2009, citing nine events that occurred at licensed medical facilities during that period.

An accident or event is considered an abnormal occurrence if it involves a major reduction in the degree of protection of public health and safety. Abnormal occurrences can include, but are not necessarily limited to, moderate exposure to or release of radioactive material licensed by the NRC or a state agency; major degradation of safety-related equipment; or major deficiencies in design, construction, use of or management controls for facilities or radioactive material licensed by the NRC.

For FY 2009, there were no abnormal occurrences at the 104 NRC-licensed nuclear power reactors. Three of the nine abnormal occurrences in medical facilities involved NRC licensees, while the rest involved Agreement State licensees. (Thirty-seven states have entered into agreements with the NRC to regulate radioactive materials.) Two of the Agreement State events involved exposure of an embryo or fetus. The rest were medical events, such as misadministration of radioactive material during diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. Thousands of such procedures are conducted in U.S. medical facilities each year.

The report details investigations of each incident by the NRC, Agreement States and licensees, as well as measures taken to ensure such incidents do not recur.

This year's report also updates information from the FY 2008's report on medical events at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and discusses leaks in underground pipes at some nuclear power plants under "Other Events of Interest."

The report on abnormal occurrences for fiscal year 2009 is published as NUREG-0090, Vol. 32. The report was transmitted to Congress on July 12 and is available on the NRC website at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr0090/>. A notice of the report's availability was published July 16 in the *Federal Register*.

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