



Nevada Site Office News

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Details of Incident at NNSS January 29, 2013

At approximately 4:00 p.m. (PST), January 29, 2013, during a patrol outside the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) in Area 6 of the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) a suspicious item was discovered lying on the desert floor slightly under a bush.

Upon visual inspection it was noted that the item had black electrical tape covering both ends. Following established safety procedures, the individual backed away and reported the suspicious item.

That report also triggered established NNSS protocols that led to dispatching of NNSS fire and rescue units and off-site emergency responders. As well, the NNSS Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center were stood up as a part of the response.

A safety perimeter was established, and all occupants within the DAF were ordered to shelter-in-place. As trained personnel arrived to assess the item, a determination was made to evacuate occupants from the DAF.

Once all personnel were evacuated, a full assessment was made of the item and it appeared to be a training prop used during exercises. While it is not fully certain, it is suspected that the prop was dropped, during a past training exercise.

The event was terminated at approximately 8:30 p.m. (PST). According to Acting Manager Steven J. Lawrence, "While this event turned out to be a false alarm, it clearly demonstrated that our established emergency management processes and procedures can and do work. As with any event there will be lessons learned, but overall I am very proud of how our workforce responded."

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