

#### RELATED TERMS

- Exercise
- Preventive Radiological Detection Program
- Site Security



## Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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### LESSON LEARNED

#### PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Hazardous Material
- Law Enforcement
- Transportation

## Law Enforcement: Detaining a Driver after Detection of an Unknown Radiological Source in a Vehicle

### SUMMARY

Law enforcement personnel conducting radiation screening should watch or detain a driver for questioning after detection of a potentially illicit radiological source in a vehicle.

### DESCRIPTION

On November 8 and 9, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office sponsored the Southeast Transportation Corridor Pilot Technology Demonstration 2006 exercise. This exercise tested participants' ability to prevent a radiological or nuclear emergency by detecting concealed radioactive sources. Personnel were asked to screen commercial trucks and cargo containers with fixed and portable radiation detection equipment in use at vehicle weigh stations and port security facilities. Following detection of a radioactive source, participants were required to adjudicate the alarm and to activate appropriate regional reach-back capabilities. Personnel from several federal departments and agencies as well as from the states of Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee participated in the exercise.

During the exercise, some law enforcement personnel did not watch or detain a driver after detecting an unknown, potentially illicit radiological source in a vehicle. For instance, Georgia state troopers allowed a driver to leave their line of sight while screening a truck. The driver walked away from the immediate area without being intercepted or questioned and was left unguarded outside the weigh station entrance. Law enforcement personnel realized that they had failed to maintain control of the driver only when they attempted to retrieve his license and paperwork. An officer then had to walk to the weigh station entrance, detain the driver, and bring him back to the truck to collect his papers.

Law enforcement personnel conducting radiation screening should watch or detain a driver for questioning after detection of a potentially illicit radiological source in a vehicle.

### CITATION

Department of Homeland Security, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. *Southeast Transportation Corridor Pilot (SETCP) Technology Demonstration November 8-9, 2006*. 01 Mar 2007.

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