

RELATED TERMS

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LESSON LEARNED

PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

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- Hazardous Material
- Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement: Ensuring that Instructions and Signage Directing Drivers at Inspection Stations are Clear and Concise

SUMMARY

Law enforcement personnel should ensure that instructions and signage directing drivers at inspection stations are clear and concise.

DESCRIPTION

On November 8-9, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security's 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 this exercise, some law enforcement personnel did not provide drivers with clear instructions and signage throughout the radiological screening process. For instance, South Carolina State Transportation Police (SCSTP) officers did not explain to a truck driver that he was expected to circle back and drive again through a portal monitor after this monitor detected a radioactive source on his vehicle. The driver was confused about the screening process because some of the signal arrows used to direct vehicles did not point in the correct direction. As a result, the driver ended up stopping in the adjoining parking lot and waiting for instructions. Two SCSTP officers had to approach the vehicle and to direct the driver back toward the monitoring station to undergo secondary screening.

Law enforcement personnel should ensure that instructions and signage directing drivers at inspection stations are clear and concise.

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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