



State of New Mexico

Department of Public Safety

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Radioactive Material Detected at Port of Entry

NNSA RAP Team Tests Monitors

Anthony— A Fed-Ex truck going through radiological monitors at the Anthony port of entry triggered an alarm. The truck was sent to the inspection bays for a closer look. The port of entry bays were evacuated when high levels of gamma rays were detected emanating from the truck. A Radiological Assistance Program team went in with detectors and found an un-placarded or un-marked box containing uranium ore.

Department of Public Safety Motor Transportation Police, working with the National Nuclear Security Administration Emergency Operations Radiological Assistance Program team, tested radiological detection equipment this week at the port of entry. The RAP team and MTPD conducted this joint operation to test the new radiological port monitors and RAP equipment. The box of uranium ore was discovered while conducting RAD screening on trucks coming through the port.

The person that shipped the material is a fire fighter from another state who travels around the country teaching how to detect radiological dirty bombs. The shipment should have been placarded or marked as a hazardous material. It is legal to ship hazardous material like this, but it must be disclosed to the shipping company and a placarded and hazardous material certified driver must drive the truck. Fed-Ex was unaware of the contents of the approximately 8 inch by 8 inch by 8 inch box.

Alarms were tripped on other vehicles carrying low level naturally occurring radioactive material in things like clay floor tiles, gravel, fertilizer and propane.

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