

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
**memorandum**

*Acc. file*

DATE: April 12, 1979

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: CONTAMINATION INCIDENT AT LBL

TO: W. J. McCool, Acting Director, OES

**705836**

A visiting researcher became contaminated at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL) after he dropped and broke an Americium calibration source at about 4:30 p.m., PST, April 11, 1979. He tracked contamination while looking for an instrument to make a reading. Shoes of a few other employees became contaminated from his tracks.

Whole body counting indicated that the researcher had about 30% of a body burden of Americium. A chelating agent was administered to reduce the amount of activity in his body.

There has been no official press release, but inquiries have been made by TV and the press.

This occurrence was reported to DOE HQ by Ms. Hattie V. Carwell, Environment and Safety Division, SAN, at 1:50 a.m., EST, April 12, 1979, through the EOC.

*Gerald L. Combs*

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EPPS Br., OES

cc: W. W. Weyzen, OHER /  
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