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7A-13  
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Thomas L. Shipman, M.D., H-Division Leader

23 August 1951

Carl Buckland, Leader, H-1 Monitoring Section

**SERIOUS SPILL AT TA-33 ON TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST**

H-1-M-5

A Button shot initiator # SQ-H-22, fired from a howitzer at TA-33 on 21 August, severed the capsule containing Polonium; contaminating the gun, blast shield, five personnel and the landscape in general. Many spots read in excess of 200,000 c/m. The W-3 personnel involved were:

- Bill Rankin
- Bill Chambers
- Edward Little
- John Dougherty

and Alex Gutierrez of H-1. All persons involved were highly contaminated. Showers reduced their skin contamination to zero. Even though protective clothing was worn, two pair of project shoes were highly contaminated in addition to one personal owned undershirt.

Morning urine samples were run on all but Alex on August 22. Results were negative. Alex will be run today, 23 August, and rechecks will be made on all concerned in another week. Any positive results will be reported to you.

The howitzer was de-contaminated last evening in order to prevent W-3 hold-up. The blast shield is yet to be decontaminated. A portion of the landscape is presently being removed in order that operations can continue as soon as possible.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CARL BUCKLAND

Carl Buckland, Leader  
H-1 Monitoring Section



cc: Marshall Followay  
Leo Chelius  
Don MacMillan  
Files ✓

CB/vt

VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

*Phil Long* 25D-6  
6-22-79

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