

Idaho State University Lost a Dirty Bomb's Worth of Plutonium

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission just fined the school \$8,500.

By [Andrew Tarantola](#)

Global Research, May 07, 2018

[Engadget](#) 4 May 2018

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

Well this isn't good. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the federal agency tasked with administering the nation's supply of fissile materials, [announced on Friday](#) that Idaho State University may be subject to fine for losing a gram of weapons-grade plutonium. While the quarter-sized chunk of radioactive rock isn't nearly enough to generate a mushroom-cloud, it is sufficient for use in a so-called "dirty bomb," [according to agency spokesman](#) Victor Dricks. And to show that the NRC isn't fooling around, that fine will run ISU a tidy \$8,500. Wait, that's it?

A February 7th inspection revealed a pair of violations,

"the failure to control and maintain surveillance of licensed radioactive material; and the failure to provide accurate and complete information to the NRC in its inventory records," per the NRC announcement.

The \$8,500 levy comes in response to the first infraction only, since the university "took prompt corrective actions after the violations were identified." The missing sample, however, has yet to be recovered.

"The NRC has very rigorous controls for the use and storage of radioactive materials as evidenced by this enforcement action," Dr. Cornelis Van der Schyf, vice president for research at the university, told the [Associated Press](#). He blamed shoddy bookkeeping from a decade and a half ago as the primary culprit.

"Unfortunately, because there was a lack of sufficient historical records to demonstrate the disposal pathway employed in 2003, the source in question had to be listed as missing," he told the AP. "The radioactive source in question poses no direct health issue or risk to public safety." Well, that's a relief.

The original source of this article is [Engadget](#)

Copyright © [Andrew Tarantola](#), [Engadget](#), 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: [Andrew Tarantola](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca