



HAZARDOUS WASTE SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR

BACKGROUND: The federal government under the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) states a generator of hazard waste is responsible for proper waste removal from the time of generation to the final destruction. It is important to know if your location generates any hazardous waste, the quantity, and how it is disposed. The law defines a small quantity generator (SQG) as more than 220 pounds (100 kilograms) of hazardous waste in a calendar month but less than 2,200 pounds (1,000 kilograms).

EXAMPLES OF HAZARDOUS WASTE: Parishes and schools could have a variety of hazardous waste from cleaning supplies to science labs. Schools with robotic classes will have electronic batteries, computer equipment, wiring, and other components that require special disposal. Hazardous waste items possess different characteristics that must be properly identified and separated. Please refer to the manufacturer's safety data sheets to confirm hazardous ingredients.

- Corrosive Materials. Items that could easily corrode, such as acidic materials with a pH of less than 2 or alkaline materials of 12.5 or higher pH. Cleaning supplies commonly fall in this category.
- Flammable Items. Any item with a flash point of less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Oxidizers. Chemicals and other items that are very combustible, such as hydrogen peroxide, sodium perchlorate, and bromine.
- Toxic Items. Chemicals and other products that are harmful when ingested or absorbed, such as pest control products, fertilizers, and weed killers.
- Universal Waste. Special items that must be managed as hazardous waste like batteries, light bulbs, certain detergents, ventilation hoods, and electronic equipment.

MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE: Facility managers and related staff must ensure special attention is given to the proper pick-up and disposal of hazardous waste. Best practices require hazardous waste is properly bagged and segregated before disposal.

- Use sealed plastic bags to keep items from commingling and causing a reaction. Double bags items if there is a possibility of leakage.
- Create separate bins for aerosols and flammables, corrosives, oxidizers, toxics, and universal waste.
- Label all containers as "Hazardous Waste" and enter a date the pile was started.

Records should be maintained for five years to identify the transportation used, disposal firm, and/or treatment facility. Once a disposal company picks up the waste, the parish or school is no longer responsible for that waste.

STATE NOTIFICATION: Even if the amount of hazardous waste generated meets the defined limits in only one month each year, the state requires notification by completing and submitting the Notification of RCRA Subtitle C Activities (Site Identification Form), also known as EPA Form 8700-12.

Please contact the Office of Risk Management if you need additional information.