



ShopTalk

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A PUBLICATION FOR DANGEROUS WASTE GENERATORS

Dude, Where's My Waste? Destination: Unknown

Operators of a rental storage facility had a scary surprise recently when they cut the lock off a unit that was behind in the rent. They might have been expecting household items but what they found were drums of dangerous waste, each labeled with the generator's name, address and waste information!

The company that had produced the waste had managed it appropriately by labeling, manifesting and (they thought) sending the drums to a treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facility. But they never checked to make sure they received the "Original Return to Generator" copy of the manifest that verifies final disposal of waste.

Generators are ultimately responsible for their dangerous waste, regardless of who handles it along the way to disposal. So the generator had to pay twice, once for the bogus "disposal" and again for the legal disposal after the drums were found.

Don't let this happen to you.

The disposal facility is supposed to send you the final signed copy of the manifest within 35 days. If you are shipping to a local facility, you ought to get that copy back in approximately 10 days. And if you don't get it, how do you know your waste got to its final destination? Where is your waste? Is it riding around in the back of a truck while the transporter tries to make up a full load? Did someone dump it illegally?

So make sure you get that manifest copy back. Check with your transporter and TSD if you don't get it in reasonable time. You'll need to submit an exception report to Ecology if

you don't receive the signed manifest copy within 45 days.

It pays to do your research before hiring someone to take your waste. Ask questions. Ask for references. **Ecology's Web page, "How to Choose a Hazardous Waste or Used Oil Contractor, A Help Guide" has good tips. You can find it at:**

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hwfacilities/pages/choose_a_tsd.html

You work hard to do the right thing, so don't lose the paper trail. Don't be jolted awake in the middle of the night with the nagging question, "Dude, where's my waste?"

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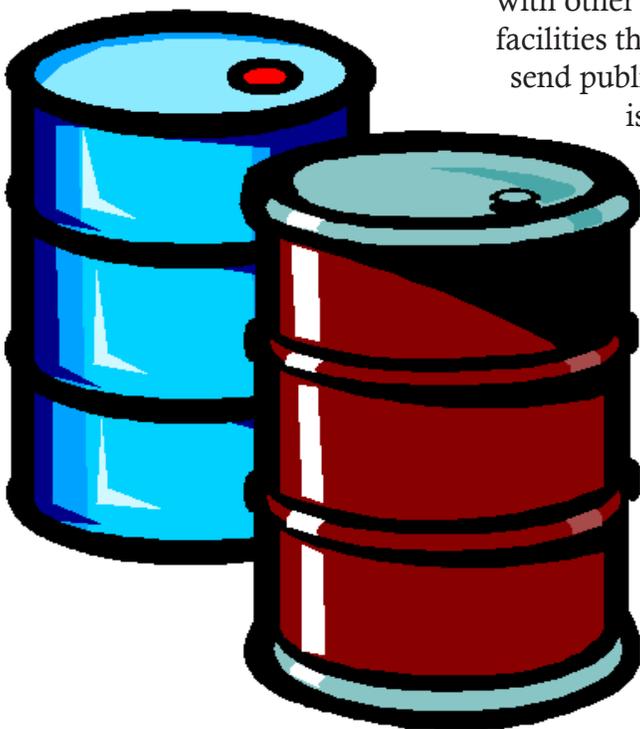


An unscrupulous transporter collected these drums of dangerous waste from various generators and then just left them in the truck.

Used Oil Guidance in the Pipeline

Ecology plans to publish guidance this summer on best management practices for used oil generators and handlers. There will be specific brochures for used oil generators, collection centers, aggregation points, transporters, processors, re-refiners, marketers and burners.

Ecology will provide guidance on what used oil is, as well as the types of “oily wastes” that qualify for management under the used oil regulations. Ecology would like your comments on a proposal to require a minimum percentage of oil in oil/water mixtures in order to qualify for the used oil management standards. For more information, contact Thomas Cusack at (360) 407-6755 or e-mail at tcus461@ecy.wa.gov



Keep Up on Facility Changes

Do you want to receive information on dangerous waste management or used oil facilities statewide? Information such as:

- A proposal to site a new facility
- A draft or final decision to issue or deny a permit
- A request to modify an existing permit
- A decision to approve or deny a permit modification
- Plans to close a facility

We are updating the mailing list used to distribute public notices about permits for facilities that recycle, treat, store or dispose of dangerous waste or used oil. You can receive these notices electronically or as paper copies.

For electronic copies, join the listserv by going to <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/dwfacilities-public-notice.html> and entering your information. (Your e-mail address may be shared with other dangerous waste facilities that are also required to send public notices on the same

issues.) For paper copies, or for more information, contact Nancy Farman, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (360) 407-0272.

Looking for an ID Number?

There's a new Internet tool available for finding up-to-date and active RCRA Site ID numbers — the Hazardous Waste Facility Search feature. You can find it at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/hwfacilitysearch/>

People often call Ecology's Annual Report Unit asking staff to verify a RCRA Site ID number or whether a site ID number is active. Now anyone—generator, consultant, transporter, etc.—can use the new search tool to see whether a site has a RCRA Site ID number and whether it is active. You can search by ID#, site name and/or site address. And it is available 24 hours a day.

There are similar search features on the Internet, such as the Environmental Protection Agency's Envirofacts Data Warehouse Web site, but their data is often one to three months old. This new search feature gives results that are only one day old.

The “Notification” page on the Internet has also been updated with a tool bar making it easier to move around the site. You can find it at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/waste-report/notification.html.

Dangerous Waste Management Costs

Many automotive repair shops pass the overhead costs of dangerous waste management on to their customers. Some shops simply add a flat fee to each invoice. Others add a certain percentage of the total bill. Still other shops calculate the environmental costs for each process and charge accordingly. This makes good business sense. But according to recent Seattle and Spokane television news programs, some shop employees are telling customers that Ecology requires businesses to collect these charges from customers. This is not correct.

Ecology does not ask businesses to collect dangerous waste management charges from their customers. Most shops do pay a \$46 annual fee to Ecology because they generate dangerous waste. That fee funds education and technical assistance programs for small businesses. Some larger auto repair shops also pay a fee related to pollution prevention planning, but most shops do not generate the amount of dangerous waste that would make them subject to the planning requirements.

Automotive repair shops must pay for the safe management of dangerous waste generated by their operations. It is one of the costs of doing business. And employees and customers need to understand the reason environmental charges appear on an invoice.

For more information, contact Scott Lamb at (425) 649-7268.

Free Video on Pest Management

Ecology is again distributing *Healthier Solutions*, a free video on integrated pest management. The video is narrated by Bill Nye, "The Science Guy," and produced by internationally renowned filmmaker John de Graaf.

The video provides practical information on managing garden and lawn pests without overusing pesticides. It includes interviews with scientists, as well as with students who are learning about integrated pest management at their schools.

Healthier Solutions is intended to trigger discussions in the classroom and bring out questions about how biology and chemistry are closely interrelated with human activities and human health. The video includes a list of Web sites and other study resources recommended by the state departments of Ecology and Health, and the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

You may order copies by contacting Dave Zink, at (360) 407-6752 or e-mail at dzin@ecy.wa.gov.

Apply Now for 2006 Governor's Award

Ecology is seeking applications for the 2006 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices. Businesses, government agencies, schools and organizations are invited to apply April 3 through June 2.

The award competition is open to any Washington facility that is in good standing with environmental regulations. Ecology is particularly interested in enterprises that have reduced or eliminated the use of toxic materials, waste or emissions, or that have switched to practices that conserve resources and energy.

Winners will be honored at a fall ceremony with the Governor and will receive additional publicity about their achievements.

For an application brochure or to get more information, contact Mariann Cook Andrews at (360) 407-6740, or e-mail at maco461@ecy.wa.gov, or visit the Web site at: www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability/GovAward/gov_awards.htm.



Trophy from 2005 Governor's Award Program

Q I know I should call spill responders when there is a hazardous substance or dangerous waste spill, but who do I call if a person has been splashed with a chemical, inhaled something or otherwise been exposed?

A Call 1-800-222-1222, the national toll-free number that directs your call to the correct Poison Center. In 2005, the Washington Poison Center received 1,188 calls about worker exposure to chemicals, cleaners, pesticides, etc. Injuries prompting the most calls included inhalations of fumes and splashes to skin and eyes. The Poison Center recommended safe and effective therapies that kept 1,074 workers from being hospitalized.

Remember to call the Poison Center for every exposure or question!

(A big thank you to Kerri Booth, education coordinator for the Washington Poison Center for reminding us of this free service. You can visit the Web site at www.wapc.org)

**Know your Poison Center number!
(800) 222-1222**

Design for Lean and the Earth, a Great Value!

Do you want to reduce the toxics in your operation? Are you interested in re-designing your product or production to make it safer, cleaner, cheaper and faster? How about low-cost help getting there?

Ecology's Lean and Environment Team is seeking a company to take part in a pilot project. Ecology staff will work with the company to re-design its product or production process using Lean Manufacturing tools (see *Go 'Lean' for Profit and Pollution Prevention*, Winter 2004 issue).

The project is funded by a grant to help a Washington business reduce its use of toxics through Lean Manufacturing design.

If you are interested in participating, please call Margit Bantowsky at (360) 407-6353.

Department of Ecology

Remember, your business is liable for all dangerous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a dangerous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling dangerous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, at:

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000
Lacey: (360) 407-6300
Yakima: (509) 575-2490
Spokane: (509) 329-3400

If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.

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