



Safety Gram

January
2020

Lab Inspections

We have been warned that we most likely will have an inspection from the EPA in regards to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Laws and Regulations, in the next month or two.

So, what does RCRA cover?

RCRA is the public law that creates the framework for the proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, or in our case "Unwanted Lab Material."

What should I know?

If you make or create any chemical "waste" (unwanted lab material), you need to have taken the Risk Management training on that. This training will take only 10-15 minutes. It can be found on our webpage Chem.byu.edu > Safety Tab > Training (heading) > Unwanted Lab Material (Waste) link

What things will they be looking for? (partial not complete list of things they will look at)

- All waste containers are marked with the term unwanted lab material
- Is there information sufficient to what is inside the container, in other words is there an inventory list, or is it labeled correctly.
- Are All containers in good condition, including primary bottles of chemicals? See picture to the right. These are not in good condition.

In 2016, three Texas Universities received significant fines from the EPA in regards to Hazardous Waste Violations. Baylor, TCU, and Texas A&M received violations

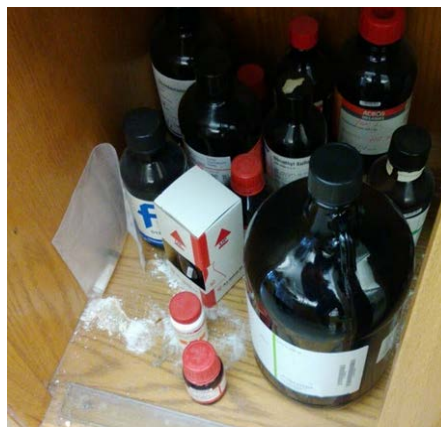
Inspectors noted unlabeled, undated, no training plans, and lack of steps taken to minimize fire, explosion or accidental release of the hazardous waste. In addition, many of their containers were store in unsafe conditions.

And this is just one of many examples out there.





All containers should be closed, except for when adding to or taking away from the container.



All spills should be cleaned up, and workplace should be clear of hazards.



All bottles and containers should be labeled properly, including bottles with water in them.



There are a lot of things wrong with this picture, unlabeled containers, opened containers, deteriorating bottles, etc..



Sometimes we are limited on space, and it is hard not to store incompatibles next to one another. This photo demonstrates a good example of using spill trays to help consolidate chemicals that may be incompatible with others.

Please remember that BYU recently made a new requirement to have all Liquid Unwanted Lab Material Containers to be stored in a secondary containment tray!