

ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE of MEDICINE
of YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

JACK and PEARL RESNICK CAMPUS

DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and SAFETY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principal Investigators

DATE: April 23, 2003

FROM: Anthony Chibbaro
Chief Safety Officer

SUBJECT: Hazardous Chemical Waste

Recently, one of our faculty members mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency inspected and substantially fined a neighboring research institution for problems relating to handling of hazardous chemical waste. According to our faculty member, the EPA was "very strict and unreasonable" and would not accept any of the institution's explanations.

Some of the violations cited by the EPA included:

- disposal of chemicals down the drain
- improper labeling of waste containers
- incorrect storage of waste
- lack of employee training in chemical disposal
- opened containers.

The impact of EPA fines negatively reflects research expenditures and an institute's reputation. AECOM's Department of Environmental Health and Safety has written guidelines for disposal of hazardous waste, conducts training programs and inspects the workplace. However, none of these are effective unless each laboratory embraces the proper waste disposal practices and incorporates them into their laboratory procedures. Waste chemicals must be placed in labeled and dated containers and not disposed down the drain. They must be stored in a secure manner and a chemical waste pick up request made to EH&S by means of a Hazardous Waste Pick Up Form (copy attached). Please review these instructions with your laboratory personnel and ensure that they are being followed. Laboratory workers who handle hazardous waste must receive training on how to handle the proper collection, labeling, storage, and disposal via EH&S. An Instructional Sheet for Laboratory Workers is also attached. EH&S has a contract with a chemical waste broker to remove the chemical waste generated and properly dispose of it.

We need your help to comply with the waste disposal regulations. Please contact us at X4150 with any questions.

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attachments

cc: A. Annunziata
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