

# SAFETY ALERT

January 4, 2023

## Collection of Aqueous/Corrosive Hazardous Wastes

### Hazards: Hazardous Chemical Reactions

Proper collection and storage of hazardous wastes generated in lab areas is important for not only complying with strict regulatory requirements, but also prevention of hazardous conditions/reactions from occurring due to mixing of incompatible wastes. There have been several recent instances where the red flammable waste collection cans are being used for collection of aqueous/corrosive wastes. LBNL PUB-3092 "Waste Generator Guidelines", identifies requirements for collection and storage of hazardous wastes: [Guidelines for Generators PUB-3092](#)

In summary, the collection of aqueous/corrosive only hazardous wastes is as follows:

1. Accumulate aqueous and corrosive wastes in plastic or polyethylene containers known to be compatible with the waste collected. Small volumes can be collected in Nalgene containers or plastic 4-liter bottles. For larger volumes, a 2.5 or 5-gallon polyethylene carboy is available from the eBuy purchasing system.
2. DO NOT use the red flam cans for collection of aqueous or corrosive wastes. These cans are only used for collection of flammable solvents. Full flam cans are picked-up by Waste Management, emptied into a centralized solvent waste drum, and then reused. Even though the reused flam cans are returned as "empty", there will always be a residue of solvents present. If adding corrosive wastes, a hazardous reaction with the residue could occur.
3. Ensure that all hazardous waste containers are clearly identified with a red "hazardous waste" label. Keep aqueous/corrosive wastes segregated from incompatible flammable wastes in separate secondary containment trays. If both types of waste streams are accumulated in the same SAA location, ensure that a label or sign is affixed to the aqueous/corrosive waste container stating: "NO SOLVENTS" or "AQUEOUS/CORROSIVE WASTE ONLY."
4. Maintain a Waste Accumulation Log for each mixed aqueous/corrosive waste container in order to track constituents and concentrations needed for the waste requisition. In addition, a pH reading is required when completing the waste requisition.

If you have questions regarding storage and collection of hazardous wastes in your lab area, contact your supervisor or the ETA Safety Manager, Ron Scholtz, at X8137.

**Red Flam Can- Use for collection of flammable solvent waste only**



**Poly Carboy- Use for collection of aqueous/corrosive waste only**

