



Florida International University | Department Of Environmental Health & Safety | ehs@fiu.edu

FIU is well into the 2022 Hurricane Season and the 2022 Fall semester. This newsletter covers the Upcoming Roundtable Event, the One Glove Rule that should be utilized when transporting hazardous materials or chemicals short distances, and the disposal of various containers, glassware, materials, and special hazardous waste. Finally, EH&S' Virtual Escape Experience is live now and can be found on our website. As always, check out the EH&S website for detailed information relating to the topics covered in this newsletter and other safety programs and procedures at <https://ehs.fiu.edu/>

Newsletter Highlights

Upcoming Lab Roundtable Event October 4th

What is the One Glove Rule?

Disposal Review of Different materials

LIVE: EH&S Virtual Escape Experience

EH&S Lab Roundtable October 4th

EH&S will host a Fall 2022 Roundtable on **October 4th from 1 PM-3 PM in WC 130**. Come out and meet the EH&S team, get information on various EH&S topics, and, most importantly, share your safety concerns. We encourage everyone to send a representative from their area to attend.

If you cannot make it in person, join us via [Zoom!](#)

The presentation will be recorded and available on the EH&S website if you cannot attend live.



What is the One Glove Rule?

Gloves are a form of personal protective equipment designed to protect hands from exposure to hazards. Gloves are made from different materials (i.e., Neoprene, Latex, Rubber, Butyl, Nitrile, Leather, etc.), and the selection of gloves must be based on the operations, hazards, environment, and duration of exposure. The Chemical Hygiene Plan lists glove types by chemicals to aid glove selection and can be found [here](#). The One Glove Rule is a procedure that can be employed if materials must be transported through common areas to prevent cross-contamination. The rule is simple, one hand has a glove on, and one hand does not. The gloved hand touches the container holding the hazard or pulls the cart transporting the hazard (pull, not push). The ungloved hand touches door handles, telephones, card swipes, elevator buttons, etc. Both hands cannot touch the same things; for example, both hands cannot touch the cart, touch a phone, etc. To transport hazardous materials through common areas requires training and preparation. If you are unsure, do not fully understand how to use the One Glove Rule, or have not been trained, do not proceed. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like EH&S to provide a demonstration of the One Glove Rule method, please email ehs@fiu.edu.

Disposal Review of Different Materials

The disposal process requires initiation from the generator and is categorized below into two (2) sections: proper user disposal and requested disposal. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ehs@fiu.edu.

Proper User Disposal

Below is a list of items or materials that is the user or generator's responsibility to dispose of appropriately.

Broken Glass Container

Broken Glass Containers must be available prior to handling glassware at FIU (can be purchased on-campus through the Fisher Scientific Store, found in MMC AHC4's loading dock.) Broken glass containers are exclusively for the disposal of broken glass. Once a broken glass container is 3/4 full, the generator must carefully close the box, seal all the seams together with tape, and dispose of the box in a solid waste dumpster (typically located in the loading docks). Refer to the [EH&S Laboratory Glassware Disposal Guidelines](#) or contact ehs@fiu.edu with any questions or concerns.

Broken Glassware

Seek medical attention if any wounds are sustained by broken glassware first. Utilize Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) not to sustain further injury. If the broken glassware contained hazardous chemicals or waste, then the glassware is considered hazardous waste and must be collected in a puncture-proof container and disposed of as hazardous waste. Uncontaminated glassware must be cautiously collected and disposed of in the Broken Glass Container mentioned above. For more information, refer to the [Lab Glassware Disposal Guidelines](#).

Empty Chemical Containers

Excluding containers that held P and U-Listed chemicals, the first step in the treatment process is removing the contents; whether liquid or solid, they must be collected and disposed of as hazardous waste. The second step is defacing the label by ensuring the label is no longer legible and writing "Uncontaminated Empty Container." The final step carries two (2) options: disposal or reuse. Disposal is the user throwing the empty bottle away in the regular trash or recycling the container if possible. Reuse refers to reusing the container to store or accumulate hazardous waste. The container will require a hazardous waste label that can be requested [here](#). For more information, review the [Empty Container Management Guide](#).

Can Chemicals be Treated (Dilution or Neutralization)?

No. At FIU, chemicals are prohibited from entering the sewer system regardless of concentration or neutralization process. Dilutions are considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of through EH&S Hazardous Waste Management Program; see below for further instructions.

Must be Requested

Hazardous Waste

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines hazardous waste as "waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment." Review the [Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#) for more information.

Review the requirements for handling and disposing of hazardous waste [here](#).

Request a pick-up by visiting the website mentioned above or scanning the QR code >>>



Biohazardous or Biomedical Waste

Biomedical waste is defined as any solid or liquid waste which may present a threat of infection to humans. A service request must be scheduled to dispose of Biohazardous or Biomedical Waste. Review the Biomedical Waste webpage for more information on requirements and how to request Biomedical waste disposal [here](#).

Radiological Waste

Using radioactive materials/radiation-producing devices requires training, experience, and authorization. For additional information or inquiries, visit the EH&S Radiation Safety Webpage [here](#).

Compressed Gas Cylinders

Compressed Gas Cylinders are ordered through and issued by approved university vendors. Contact the vendor that provided the unit to request a pick-up. If an old cylinder is in your area and you are unsure of the vendor, contact ehs@fiu.edu.

Universal Waste

Batteries, Lamps, Light bulbs, and Mercury-Containing Devices are considered Universal Waste and must be collected, [labeled "Universal Waste,"](#) and disposed of through FIU's Facilities Management Department (FMD). Review the methods of disposal found on the EH&S website [here](#).

LIVE: EH&S Virtual Escape Experience?

EH&S is proud to present the EH&S Virtual Escape Experience, a collaborative project between EH&S and the FIU Summer Youth Internship Program!

Do you have what it takes to escape safely?

Try out your safety knowledge and learn a thing or two in the Escape Experience, found on the EH&S website's homepage <https://ehs.fiu.edu/>. Once you have completed the experience, you can enter the sweepstakes for a chance to win a prize that renews every semester!



Visit the EH&S Laboratory Safety webpage for more information, found [here](#).

Reach out with any questions or concerns: ehs@fiu.edu.