

Hazardous Waste Disposal

I. Purpose

This policy establishes DSCC's institutional commitment to the safe, lawful, and environmentally responsible management and disposal of hazardous, universal, and regulated wastes. The policy is intended to ensure compliance with applicable requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA), Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). This policy also affirms that DSCC will manage hazardous waste in a manner that protects employees, students, the public, and the environment while minimizing regulatory, financial, and reputational risk to the institution.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all DSCC employees, students, contractors, and visitors who generate, handle, use, store, or otherwise come into contact with hazardous or regulated waste materials in the course of DSCC instructional, research, facilities, or operational activities.

III. Policy

DSCC shall properly identify, manage, and dispose of all waste materials (solid, liquid, or otherwise) that are classified as hazardous, universal, or regulated under applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulations.

Hazardous and regulated wastes may include but are not limited to: fluorescent lamps and ballasts, batteries, paints, solvents, oils, refrigerants, selected laboratory chemicals, asbestos-containing materials, sharps, mercury-containing devices, electrical capacitors, and other materials determined to present a physical, chemical, or health hazard.

DSCC shall manage hazardous waste through appropriate institutional controls, including centralized coordination, use of approved disposal vendors, employee awareness and training expectations, and integration with campus safety and emergency response programs. Operational procedures supporting this policy shall be maintained separately and updated as necessary to reflect regulatory changes and institutional needs.

To support identification and monitoring of hazardous and regulated waste across the campus, the Director of Physical Plant (in coordination with Sciences faculty and other departments as appropriate) maintains an inventory of chemicals and associated Safety Data Sheets (SDS). In addition, the Director of Physical Plant conducts periodic (at least annual) campus-wide reviews of facilities, operations, and activities to identify materials, conditions, or changes that may generate hazardous, universal, medical, or special waste.

IV. Compliance

Compliance with this policy is the responsibility of all employees and students who generate or handle hazardous or regulated waste. Supervisors, department heads, instructors, and managers share responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented within their respective areas of oversight.

DSCC is responsible for ensuring that hazardous waste management activities are conducted in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal requirements. The institution acknowledges that failure to comply with these requirements may result in regulatory enforcement actions, fines, penalties, or other liabilities.

To support compliance, DSCC will coordinate hazardous and universal waste disposal through approved waste disposal service providers and will maintain appropriate documentation, records, and oversight consistent with regulatory requirements.

Monitoring activities, including maintenance of chemical inventories, SDS records, and periodic reviews of campus facilities and operations, serve as institutional controls to identify and address hazardous or regulated waste streams that may arise outside of routinely recognized areas or departments.

V. Definitions

Hazardous waste - any discarded material that poses a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment due to its chemical, physical, toxic, reactive, flammable, or corrosive properties, as defined by federal and state regulations.

Universal waste - a regulated subset of hazardous waste consisting of widely generated materials (such as certain batteries, lamps, mercury-containing devices, pesticides, and aerosol cans) that are subject to alternative management standards to promote safe handling and recycling.

Medical waste - waste generated from healthcare-related activities that may pose a risk of infection or injury, including sharps, contaminated materials, and biohazardous substances, and is regulated separately from hazardous waste.

Special waste - waste that requires handling or disposal methods different from routine solid waste due to its size, composition, quantity, or regulatory classification, as designated by applicable state or federal agencies.

Hazardous Chemical Determination

1. OSHA Definition

Under the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, a hazardous chemical is any element, chemical compound, or mixture of elements and/or compounds that presents a physical hazard or a health hazard. This definition applies regardless of quantity or concentration.

- A physical hazard is a chemical for which there is scientifically valid evidence that it is combustible, flammable, explosive, reactive, oxidizing, compressed, or otherwise capable of causing physical harm.
- A health hazard is a chemical for which there is statistically significant evidence, based on at least one properly conducted scientific study, that acute or chronic

health effects may occur in exposed individuals.

2. **Listed Hazardous Chemicals**

Chemicals identified as hazardous under the following sources are considered hazardous for purposes of this policy:

- 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart Z – Toxic and Hazardous Substances (OSHA)
- *Threshold Limit Values (TLVs®) for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents in the Work Environment*, American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), latest edition.

3. **Carcinogens**

Chemicals identified as known or potential carcinogens and considered hazardous include those listed by:

- National Toxicology Program (NTP), *Report on Carcinogens*
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs
- 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart Z – OSHA

Additional regulatory definitions related to hazardous, universal, medical, and special waste categories are governed by applicable EPA and TDEC regulations and supporting institutional procedures.

VI. Revision History

Policy written 1989. Policy revised May 2014; approved by Administrative Council on 08/31/2017. Policy revision reviewed and approved by Admin Council on 04/27/2023. Policy revision reviewed and approved by Administrative Council on 4/30/2026.