Laboratory Biohazardous/Sharps Waste Management
Types of Biohazardous Waste

- **Dry Solid** - No pourable liquids!
  - Contaminated Containers such as:
    - Petri Dishes
    - Conical Tubes
  - Contaminated Transfer Devices
    - Pipette Tips
    - Plastic Pipettes
Types of Biohazardous Waste

- Liquids – Pourable Wastes
  - Stocks
  - Media
  - Blood
  - Aspirated Liquid Wastes
Types of Sharps Waste

- Sharps – Have the ability to cut or puncture.
  - Pasteur pipettes
  - Syringes with needles
  - Needles
  - Razor Blades
  - Microscope slides
Biohazardous Waste Collection

- **Dry Solids (No sharps!)**
  - **Primary Containment:** Collect dry, solid waste in a “red bag”. The red bag must have the international biohazard symbol, the word “biohazard” and a generator address label shown below (includes building & room number):

  San Diego State University
  5500 Campanile Drive
  San Diego, CA 92182
  (619) 594-6778
  Bldg & Room Number: **NLS-121**
Generator Address Labels

The Generator Address Labels include the following information:

- Facility Name
- Facility Address
- Phone Number
- Building and Room Number

- Laboratories on Campus can request these labels from the EH&S Department
- Off Campus facilities must generate their own labels which includes their specific information
Biohazardous Waste Collection

- **Dry Solids (No sharps!)**
  - **Secondary Containment:**
    The red bag (primary containment) must be stored in a rigid container with a lid that is resistant to leaks and punctures. The red bag must be kept in the secondary container during use, storage, and transport.
Biohazardous Waste Collection

- **Dry Solids**
  - In the picture on the right, the red bag is the primary container while the rigid can is secondary container.
  
  - The secondary container must also have the international biohazard symbol and the word: “Biohazard”
Acceptable and Unacceptable Secondary Containers

Must be rigid, puncture-proof, leak-proof

Not acceptable in CA
Biohazardous Waste Collection

- **Dry Solids**
  - Labels containing the international biohazard symbol and the word “Biohazard” have to be affixed on all 4 sides of the secondary container AND on the lid.
  
  - For secondary containers that are cylindrical, the Labels must be on three equidistant sides AND the lid.
Biohazardous Waste Collection

- Biohazardous Liquid Waste (Temporary Storage)
  - Collect in a non-breakable container with lid and labeled with the international biohazard symbol and the word “Biohazard”.
  - The container needs to be in secondary containment.
Biohazardous Waste Disposal

Biohazardous Liquid Waste Disposal

- Treat the liquid by disinfecting it with a 10% bleach solution.
- Let the solution stand for 20 minutes.
- Discard down sink drain, then flush with water.
Sharps Waste Collection

- **Sharps**
  - Collect in a rigid puncture and leak resistant properly labeled container.
    - The words “Biohazardous”
    - Must have International Biological Hazard symbol
    - Generator Address Label:
Waste Disposal

- Take biohazard bag and sharps container to designated Accumulation Sites:
  - Life Science/Bioscience Center Receiving Area
  - Calpulli Center/Student Health Services Building on the East side
  - Generators at other locations on campus may call EHS at (619) 594-6778 for biohazard waste pick-ups

- A biowaste vendor will collect biohazard bag and sharps container for disposal on a weekly basis from Life Science and Student Health Services.

- Biohazardous and sharps wastes will be autoclaved while animal carcasses will be incinerated.
Common Problems

1. Don’t place sharps in red bags.
2. Always use “Generator Labels.”
3. Don’t overfill bio containers.

Pasteur pipette in red bag

No Generator Label

Overfilled biological waste container and no lid
Other Problems

- DO NOT use hazardous waste labels for biohazardous waste.

- Sharps containers must be removed seven days from when the lids are locked or tape sealed.

- Red bags must be removed seven days from initial use or more frequently if odor poses nuisance.
Common Problems

Full red bag on floor

Full red bag on bench

Red bags must be in secondary containment at all times. Never place a full bag on the bench or the floor without proper secondary containment.
Left: Do not deface container. Incorrect label placed on container (need generator label).

Right: Red bag must be transported in a secure secondary container to the accumulation site. Red bag must have biohazard label and generator label.
Guidelines for Biohazardous Waste

- Refer to the Biohazard/Sharps waste disposal guideline in SDSU’s EH&S website for more detailed information:
  - http://bfa.sdsu.edu/ehs/medbiodispos.htm
Q: What do I do if my Red Bag has been punctured?

A: The easiest thing to do is to place it into another empty Red Bag then close and seal it and do this until you are confident that it will not puncture again. If this is a consistent problem, you need to change your waste collection procedure. For example, you can go to a thicker gage of Red Bags, switch to a sharps container, or reduce the amount of material you place in a Red Bag. Overfilling is one of most common source of punctures, leakage and expulsion of contents.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If my sharps waste are not contaminated with biohazardous material, do I have to dispose of them in a sharps container?

A: No, but it is the safest means to dispose of sharps wastes for you and the people who empty your trash!! Whether your sharps wastes are contaminated or not, they need to be stored and disposed of in a secure, rigid, puncture proof container.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to write down a start accumulation date on my Red Bag or Sharps container?

A: NO. Accumulation dates are only required on Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste NOT on Biohazardous or Sharps Waste.
Q: If I have only a small amount of waste in my red bag and there is no strong odor, do I need to empty my Red Bag after 7 days?

A: Yes, it is a regulatory requirement. If you continually generate small amounts of biohazardous waste, we suggest that you try using smaller Red Bags and secondary containers for your waste.
Q: Does my Sharps Container or Secondary Container need to be red?

A: No, only Red Bags need to be “Red”. The other containers can be any color but they do need the appropriate labeling.
A: My sharps container has a crack in it, what should I do?

Q: You need to place it into a larger and appropriately labeled container and then dispose of it. **Do not attempt to transfer contents from one container to another.**
The End