

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

0979 General

TO : Distribution
THRU : T. K. Keenan, H-7 Group Leader
FROM : J. L. Warren, H-7
SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR WASTE PREPARATION FOR THE COMPACTION OF SOLID RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT LASL
SYMBOL : H-7A-77-63
MAIL STOP: 517

TK

JLW 7591

DATE: March 18, 1977

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Within the next few weeks, the H-7 Solid Waste Disposal Section will begin compaction and baling of trash type solid radioactive wastes. In order to complete our planning for this operation and eliminate as many problems before they arise as is possible, we would like to remind all generator groups of the following guidelines for packaging and disposal of this type of radioactive waste.

1. Compactible wastes must be segregated from noncompactible wastes into separate packages. When sealed, and if placed into the same Dempster Dumpster, packages must be clearly labeled "C" for compactible and "N" for noncompactible. All waste must be packaged and the packages sealed.
2. Where the package is the 2 ft.³ (12" x 12" x 24") cardboard box, there should be an inner sealed plastic bag liner.
3. Where packaged only in plastic bags, all glass and sharp objects must be pre-wrapped to allow safe handling of the package.
4. In areas where noncompactible wastes are placed into the same Dumpster as compactibles, the noncompactible package must be limited in weight to no more than 30 lbs.
5. The maximum allowable package size for compactible waste is 16" x 19" x 36".
6. All of the following materials must be excluded from being packaged with compactible wastes:
 - a. Containers with free liquids
 - b. Containers under pressure (e.g., spray paint cans, lubricant spray cans, etc.)

- c. Pyrophoric materials
 - d. Hazardous chemicals and their containers, unless the containers have been rinsed out
 - e. Any material containing a significant quantity of absorbed liquids (e.g., wet mop heads)
7. Waste containing tritium in any measureable quantity must be excluded.
 8. The maximum β/γ reading at the surface of a package is limited to no more than 200 mR/hr.
 9. All waste packages must be free of external contamination.

We realize that there will be numerous minor problems that will be encountered in the startup of this operation. We are hoping that with your assistance in following the listed guidelines we can eliminate any serious problems. We ask that you please post or distribute this information to all of your personnel.

Efforts have been initiated at the Laboratory to obtain additional Dempster Dumpsters for waste disposal; at this time, however, these are not available to provide most sites with separate Dumpsters for compactible and noncompactible wastes. Please contact John Enders, H-7 Waste Management at ext. 7391 if you have problems with the requested segregation of wastes, disposal of noncompactibles, or other related radioactive waste disposal problems.

One of the major ERDA Waste Management goals established in recent years and identified in ERDA Manual Chapter 0511 is to reduce the land area being required for the disposal of radioactive waste. The initiation of compaction-baling operations at LASL, wherein we anticipate a 6-10:1 volume reduction factor, is a major step on our part in meeting this most worthwhile objective. However, to accomplish this in the safest and most efficient manner will require the concerted efforts of all involved. We sincerely appreciate your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

JLW:gl

See attachment for distribution

DISTRIBUTION

Refer: H-7A-77-63

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