

## **Hazardous Waste Management Disposal**

A hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is generated from many sources and comes in the forms of liquids, solids, gases, and sludges. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a regulatory framework including criteria used to identify when a substance is considered hazardous and develop processes for managing these wastes.

For a material to be classified as a hazardous waste, it must first be considered a solid waste. The first step in the hazardous waste identification process is determining if a material is a solid waste. Once a material is classified as solid waste, the handler determines if the waste is specifically excluded from regulation as a solid or hazardous waste. If determined to be solid waste, the waste is further evaluated to establish whether the waste is a listed or characteristic hazardous waste.

At Altus AFB, hazardous waste is managed at specific locations only. There are two types of areas: the Central Accumulation Point (CAP) and Initial Accumulation Points (IAP). Only authorized and trained personnel can manage hazardous waste. Improperly managed hazardous waste has the potential to release harmful substances to the environment and cause harmful exposure to humans or other living things. Mismanaging hazardous waste also exposes Altus AFB to fines from the EPA.

### **CENTRAL ACCUMULATION POINT**

Altus AFB has one CAP, which is located at the Hazardous Waste Facility – Building 502. The CAP serves as a centralized repository for hazardous waste at the installation before it is transported off site for final disposition. The Altus AFB CAP is managed by a hazardous waste contractor. The hazardous waste contractor provides hazardous waste/universal waste training and pre-labeled HW and UW containers, and accepts full HW and UW containers from IAP locations.

### **INITIAL ACCUMULATION POINT AREAS**

Altus AFB has multiple IAPs for the interim storage of hazardous waste at the point of generation. Federal and state laws strictly regulate all types of IAPs. IAPs allow for the accumulation of up to 55 gallons of hazardous waste (or one quart of acute hazardous waste) to be stored at or near the point of waste generation. Improper management of hazardous waste could pose a threat to unit personnel and the environment and result in fines by the EPA.

#### **General Management Procedure Steps**

1. Never establish, deactivate, or move an IAP without prior authorization from the Altus AFB's Environmental Office: (580) 481-6110.

2. Hazardous material becomes a hazardous waste as soon as it can no longer be used for its intended purpose and a determination is made that it meets the criteria for hazardous waste. Once this determination is made, it must be transferred to the IAP immediately.
3. The maximum total volume of hazardous waste an IAP may have is 55 gallons or less of non-acute hazardous waste; 1 quart or less of liquid acute hazardous waste or 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of solid acute hazardous waste. Spill debris from Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) is not considered hazardous waste unless the POL was gasoline. Containers for POL may exceed 55 gallons.
4. Transfer the hazardous waste to the IAP or CAP (the Altus AFB Hazardous Waste Facility, Building 502). All drums and containers in the IAP must be marked and labeled with the proper DOT hazard class label, contents, and accumulation dates.
5. Containers of hazardous waste may only be opened and closed when transferring hazardous waste into the container. If storing hazardous waste in a drum, close the drum and ensure the lid or bungs are secure and tight.
6. Ensure the IAP is inspected weekly and documented with an IAP inspection checklist.
7. Call the Altus AFB Hazardous Waste Contractor to schedule pickup at (580) 481-6198 prior to exceeding 55 gallons of hazardous waste or 1 quart of acute hazardous waste. If the IAP meets or exceeds 55 gallons of hazardous waste or 1 quart of acute hazardous waste, the hazardous waste must be transferred to the CAP within 72 hours.