



**USED AEROSOL CONTAINER DISPOSAL
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)**

I. Purpose

- a. Tennessee Tech University must collect, manage, and properly dispose of used aerosol containers.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)
 - i. Coordinate all aspects of hazardous waste management, implementing safety policies, procedures, and guidelines for the University.
 - ii. Design and improve disposal procedures for aerosol can disposal.
 - iii. Ensure the university's compliance with all applicable federal (EPA) and state (TDEC) environmental regulations concerning hazardous waste.
- b. Principle Investigator, Classroom Instructor, or Supervisor
 - i. Ensure that the guidelines established herein are followed by all personnel, including other researchers under their jurisdiction.
- c. Laboratory Worker and Other Individuals
 - i. Manage and dispose of aerosol cans in accordance with established procedures set forth in this SOP.
 - ii. Seek the advice, when necessary, of EHS concerning the proper handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals.

III. Considerations of Aerosol Container Generation

- a. Employees must minimize the use of aerosol containers by:
 - i. Purchasing only the amount of consumer products needed.
 - ii. Using partially full containers until empty.
 - iii. Disposing of partially full or empty containers as directed by this SOP.
 - iv. It is recommended (if applicable) to phase out the use of the aerosol cans and replace them with reusable spray bottles or refillable pumps.

IV. Disposal Procedures

- a. Non-hazardous disposal:
 - i. For an aerosol container to be disposed of as a nonhazardous waste, the container must be empty, the product it contained must not be hazardous, and the container itself cannot be hazardous (i.e. it is not reactive or explosive).

- ii. Aerosol container must be completely empty of product and propellant to be considered completely empty.
 - 1. If the container is empty and contained a non-hazardous substance the container can be disposed in the regular trash.
 - 2. An aerosol can that contains a non-hazardous material and is not empty must be disposed as hazardous waste.
- b. Hazardous waste disposal:
 - i. The spray mechanism or nozzles must be in place and functional.
 - ii. Aerosol containers formerly containing pesticides, flammable propellants or acutely hazardous chemicals, although considered empty, will need to be managed as a hazardous waste.
 - iii. Refer to the [Hazardous Waste Management and Satellite Accumulation Area Guide](#) for proper disposal.
 - 1. Aerosol containers are materials in their original containers and do not require a hazardous waste label.

V. Standards

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 (Hazardous Waste)

EPA 40 CFR Parts 260-279

Tennessee Code Annotated (1200-01-11; 0400-12-01)