



Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures
Policy 08.01.06

Section: Health and Safety	Responsible Vice President: EVP of Business & Finance
Subject: Preventive Occupational and Environmental Medicine	Responsible Entity: Health & Safety Services

I. Title

Removal/Disposal of Hazardous Waste

II. Policy

UTMB is committed to the removal and disposal of hazardous waste in accordance with federal, state and local laws and regulations. As a result, UTMB has specific procedures which must be complied with to maintain the necessary permits required for continuing operations at UTMB.

Removal and disposal of any waste deemed hazardous by federal, state and local laws or by UTMB Environmental Health and Safety - Environmental Protection Management (EHS) shall be performed in compliance with this policy.

General procedures are set forth in the [UTMB Safety Manual](#), Chapter 9 “Hazardous Waste Disposal.” Unless otherwise specified by EHS, these procedures shall be followed for all hazardous waste removal and disposal operations. The chapter includes information on the required procedures for the disposal of all (non- radioactive) hazardous wastes, including biological and chemical wastes.

Hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals must be collected for proper disposal through EHS. Chemicals include unused stock chemicals (unused facility products and cleaners), pharmaceuticals deemed hazardous, chemical mixtures to be discarded from an experiment, and EPA regulated hazardous chemicals. Chemical waste includes various forms of solids, liquids or gases that are potentially dangerous to human health or the environment. Chemical disposal should be scheduled with EHS – Environmental Protection Management (EPM) [online](#). If you have waste disposal questions, please contact EPM at (409) 747-0515.

The discarding of chemicals down the drain, evaporating, or discarding in UTMB trash is prohibited by federal, state and municipal laws. All laboratory disposal activities must have prior written approval from EHS, otherwise the action of drain disposal for chemical waste is considered illegal and against UTMB’s policy and procedures.

EHS may determine where site and waste specific procedures are required in addition to procedures found in the [UTMB Safety Manual](#)

Additional required procedures can be obtained from the department head or by contacting EHS.

III. Exceptions

Removal and disposal of radioactive waste shall be in accordance with additional procedures set forth in the [UTMB Radiation Safety Manual](#) or by EHS-Radiation Safety.

IV. Monitoring Compliance

Compliance with this policy will be monitored by EHS. Areas identified as non-compliant with this

policy shall at a minimum be re-trained by EHS personnel regarding the subject of hazardous waste removal and disposal. Improper handling of hazardous materials will be rectified according to federal state and local laws and regulations.

V. Additional Information

For information or assistance regarding specific hazardous waste removal and disposal procedures or for information regarding any questions of proper, safe and lawful hazardous or radioactive waste disposal, [contact EHS](#)

The [UTMB Safety Manual](#) [UTMB Radiation Safety Manual](#) are updated by EHS to reflect changing laws and regulations regarding hazardous or radioactive waste disposal. Copies of these manuals are available from EHS and can be found on UTMB’s website.

VI. Dates Approved or Amended

<i>Originated: 11/01/1997</i>	
<i>Reviewed with Changes</i>	<i>Reviewed without Changes</i>
	04/12/2017
	08/07/2020

VII. Contact Information

[Environmental Health and Safety](#)
(409) 747-0515