

# Safety Alert – Hazardous Materials

Kaufman County Environmental Enforcement  
(469) 376-4127

The following information, if followed, will help protect individuals from dangers posed by Hazardous Waste on Texas roads, highways, and properties.

**Meth Lab Wastes:** Methamphetamine drug lab waste can be found in many shapes and forms. Over 300 different chemicals can be used in production of the drug depending on the procedure used. The waste can be disposed of in many different ways.



Propane cylinders from grills are used to transport anhydrous ammonia. This ammonia will burn your skin and cause very severe respiratory damage. These tanks, when used with the brass fitting, can explode when moved. The ammonia degrades the brass to the point where it can blow the fitting out of the tank, endangering individuals in the area. The brass fittings on the tanks will turn a blue to blue green color as shown in the picture on the left. Some tanks have been modified with other



fittings.

If you find cylinders, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report to your law enforcement agency.



Other meth lab waste could be medicine boxes, pill residue (putty looking substance pink to red in color), respirator masks, rubber gloves, rubber hosing and clamps, pyrex glass, corning containers and other containers with rubber hoses attached. Bed sheets or pillow cases stained red or containing a white powdery residue may also be found.



## RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS:

If you see this symbol or the words ***RADIOACTIVE*** on a package, **DO NOT TOUCH**. Report this to your local law enforcement agency.



## BIOHAZARD MATERIAL: Medical Waste

If you find a container with this symbol on it, **DO NOT TOUCH**, report the location to your local law enforcement agency.

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This container was labeled as having Methyl Ethyl Ketone in it. It was tested and found to contain used motor oil. Labels on containers **DO NOT** always correspond with their contents. If you find a container that has a material in it **DO NOT TOUCH** report the location to your local law enforcement agency.

The lid on this drum is expanded outwards which indicates a good possibility of pressure inside container. There is a danger of exploding if this container were moved or touched. Other types of containers may also be found and if you are unsure whether the container is safe to handle, **DO NOT TOUCH**.



## Other Threats To Health & Safety:

Abandoned barrels	Herbicide containers
Chemical containers	Pesticide containers
Hypodermic needles	Lead-acid batteries
Unidentifiable containers	Flammable liquids
Broken automotive batteries	Used motor oil
Bulging or dented containers	Antifreeze
Containers of unidentifiable materials	Narcotics
Containers leaking an unknown substance	Paints

### DO:

1. Approach a container from uphill and upwind. The wind will blow any vapors away from you and approaching from uphill may prevent you from walking into any chemical present on the ground.
2. Leave the area immediately if you detect any odors out of the ordinary. Odors to be alert for:  
(can be connected with meth lab hazardous waste as well as other chemicals found)
  - Ether-like
  - Solvent-like
  - Vinegar-like
  - Ammonia-like
3. Put your safety and the safety of the individuals with you **FIRST** and **FOREMOST**.
4. If you feel a situation is or could possibly be unsafe leave the area immediately, don't take chances.