



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection During Emergencies/Disasters

### *Site Setup & Operation*

Setting up a collection area for household hazardous waste involves some pre-planning, but it can be accomplished through some fairly simple steps:

#### **Site setup considerations**

- See “Site Collection Layout” diagram (back page).
- The size of your collection area will be dependent on how much material you think you will be collecting, and the frequency that you will be transporting material offsite. An acre or more of area is preferable, but a smaller collection operation could be done with less.
- Concrete/asphalt are good surfaces for a staging area, gravel less desirable. Access to the site should be controlled.
- Spill kits should be available, including:
  - Acids & caustic storage areas should have spill kits with “Clean Pads” and/or appropriate neutralizing agents;
  - Hydrocarbon storage areas should have spill kits with sorbent pads, floor dry, kitty litter, etc.
- Stage fire extinguishers at corners of the storage pads.
- Put flammables that have been consolidated into 55-gallon drums under a cover (tent) to reduce heating of the drums by the sun.
- Each area (as shown on back) should have a visqueen underlayment. Sandbags wrapped in visqueen (or equivalent) can be utilized as berms to contain spillage.

#### **Collection area considerations**

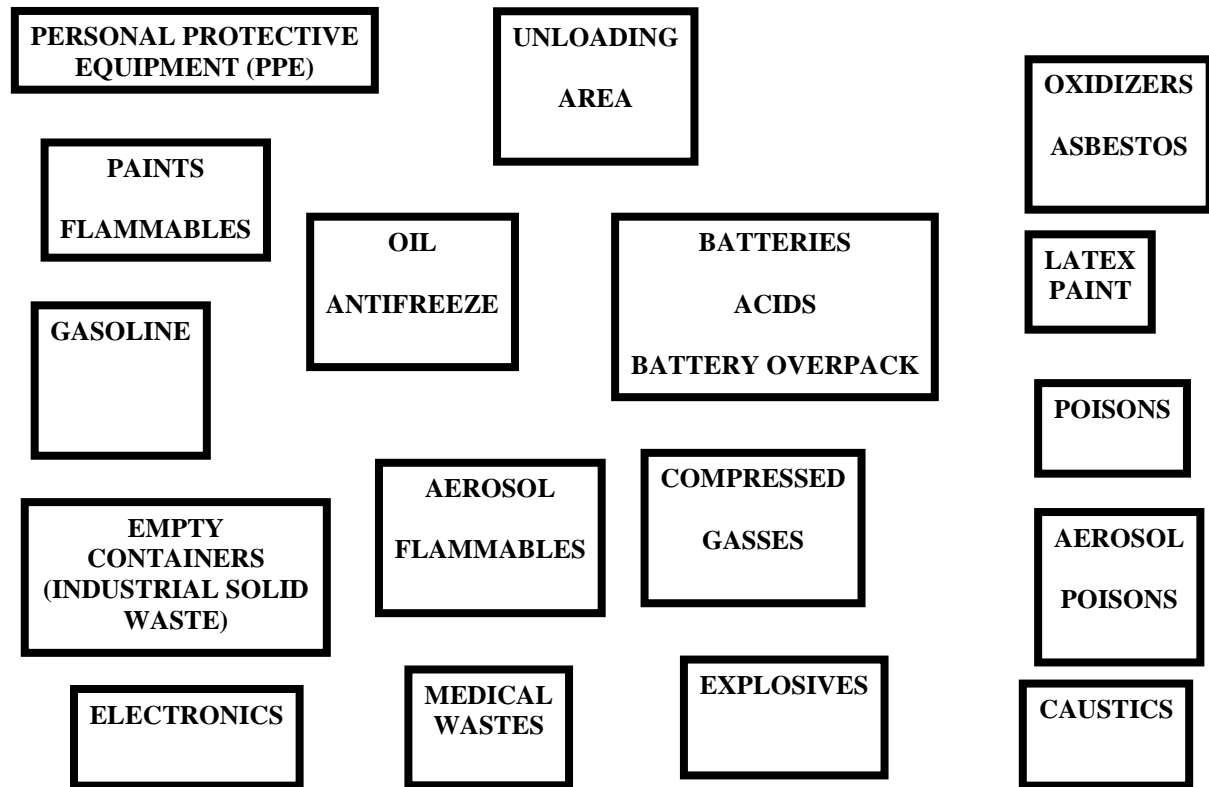
- Track containers that are received (count them & mark them).
- Segregate containers by category (see back page).
- Mark areas by signs that correspond to the various waste categories.
- Utilize someone proficient in “categorizing” the various wastes—local hazmat teams will likely have someone with this kind of experience.

#### **Offsite disposal**

- Begin as early as possible to identify companies that will accept your wastes. Representatives from these companies can be very helpful in providing advice on shipping, manifesting, packaging, combining, etc.

For more information, contact EPA at 913/281-0991.

## Typical Site Collection Layout



Site Collection Area, Louisiana, 2006