

San Joaquin County Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Department Policy

Purpose

When disposing of hazardous waste that is generated by County departments, it is important to bear in mind that the County is liable for its proper disposal. Federal cradle-to-grave laws impose strict liability on generators for any damages resulting from mismanagement of their hazardous waste. As a local government agency San Joaquin County is obligated to responsibly manage its hazardous waste, and individual County departments are responsible for the hazardous waste that they generate.

Procedure

Purchasing and Support Services will coordinate with Department Heads to assist County departments with the proper management of hazardous waste. Department Heads are tasked with identifying a “point person” for their respective departments to coordinate this effort. Multiple departments housed in the same building may opt to coordinate with each other and designate a single “point person” for the entire building. The “point person” is charged with identifying a central location for the accumulated hazardous waste, such as batteries, generated by the respective department (or building). When it is time for disposal, simply call 1-800-207-8222 to schedule an appointment to either have the material picked up, or to drop the material off at the HHW Facility. Payment may be made to the hazardous waste contractor via department CalCards or Visa credit cards. For more details and a fee schedule please refer to the enclosed program brochure.

Background

Many common products used in an office environment contain hazardous materials, which are toxic, flammable, corrosive or reactive. Universal waste devices, such as batteries and fluorescent bulbs, are common hazardous wastes that often contain lead, mercury, copper, and other toxic constituents. California regulates these products at the end of their useful life, meaning they must be managed as hazardous waste and cannot be disposed of in the trash. Generators may store universal waste devices for up to one year prior to disposal. Refer to the enclosed fact sheet for additional guidelines.

San Joaquin County operates a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, which has a “Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator” (CESQG, or “squeegee”) program which qualifying businesses, including many County departments, may use to dispose of hazardous wastes. The CESQG program offers hazardous waste disposal drop-off and pickup services by appointment, for a minimal cost. Disposal costs vary depending on the type and quantity of material. A \$20 processing fee applies for each appointment, and if a pickup is requested the cost is \$100 per stop.

For further information on San Joaquin County’s Hazardous Waste Disposal Program, please contact Kimbra Andrews, Management Analyst with the County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Division, at 468-3066.