

Chemical Waste: Where does it go?

Multi-part Series: JST Interview with Don Tong, *Waste Specialist* since 1995

Let's dispel the myth right now: PI's and/or research labs **are not charged** when you request EHS to pick up hazardous waste through the EHS website. Because of this, handing waste off to Don does not "cheat the system"... The University allots a general fund of ~\$2 million to EHS to handle all of the university's waste. CBC uses about 20% of that.

Don does collect big drums of spent pump oil and silica gel from columns in the lab space next to his CBEC office. So if you have either of these things, please contact him and he will come take care of it!

So where does waste go?

Everything that cannot be recycled goes to EHS. From there, depending on the hazard, waste will go to different companies. 95% of our solvent, glass and contaminated lab equipment (blue bins) end up with the company **Clean Harbors**. We contract disposal out because we are required by law to get a **Certificate of Disposal** with all hazardous materials (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act 1976). These hazardous materials are incinerated in high temperature furnaces by Clean Harbors. The process utilizes high BTU solvents, such as acetonitrile, to serve as a fuel injector in order to obtain higher burning temperatures. The closest incinerator is in Arkansas.

...to be continued. Contact Don for any specific questions about waste! He is happy to help: tong.2@osu.edu

Safety Tips from the JST

- ❖ RISK ASSESSMENT: Familiarize yourself with hazards associated with chemicals and procedures BEFORE starting an experiment
- ❖ Keep hood sashes at appropriate positions to ensure proper building airflow.
- ❖ Ensure your lab/office doors are locked and shut before leaving for the day
- ❖ Demonstrate proper glove etiquette in hallways. If unavoidable, use 2 people when transporting chemicals

Laboratory Safety Dean's List

EHS issues this award to PI's and their staff who have no items of concern noted during their annual lab site visit. Let's give special recognition to the following research groups (and LSO's) who received the award this year.

- ❖ Hadad LSO: Andrew Franjesevic
- ❖ Turro Lauren Loftus
- ❖ Y. Wu Allie Curtze
- ❖ Kudryashov Vedud Purde
- ❖ Demo Lab Angie Miller
- ❖ James Coe Justin Erwin
- ❖ Shafaat Jeff Slater

Safety in Numbers

