

# Safety Alert – Hazardous Materials

The following information, if followed, will help protect individuals from dangers posed by Hazardous Waste along the highways.

**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 can 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.

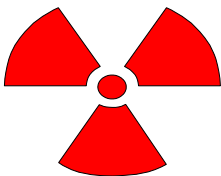
Some tanks have been modified with other fittings. If you find cylinders, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to nearest Minnesota Department of Transportation office.



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 the nearest Mn/DOT office.

## Biohazard Material: Medical Waste



This is the symbol for biohazard materials that could possibly be found on the roadway. If you find a container with this symbol **DO NOT TOUCH**, report location to the nearest Mn/DOT office.



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** and report location to the Mn/DOT office.

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 Hazardous Materials:

*Never pick up the following:*

Abandoned barrels	Weapons	Dead animals
Chemical containers	Pesticide/Herbicide containers	Sharp objects
Hypodermic needles	Chemical Containers	Gas Cans
Unidentifiable containers	Narcotics	Used oil
Broken automotive batteries	Paint cans	Antifreeze
Containers of unidentifiable materials		
Bulging or dented containers		
Containers leaking an unknown substance		

### DO:

1. Always approach a container from uphill and upwind. The wind will blow any vapors away from you and approaching from uphill will 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, be careful, don't take chances and please work safe.