

Unknown Waste Disposal Procedure

Unknown wastes present a unique situation. Without knowledge of a chemical's identity, NAU personnel, first responders, and others may be harmfully exposed. Unknown chemicals are also determined by the state to be hazardous waste, and may result in a \$72,218 fine per day per container regardless of size. Federal regulations require that all chemicals be accurately labeled. Any chemical outside of the original manufacturer's container shall be labeled with the full chemical name and a communication of the hazards posed by that chemical. This includes samples and specimens being held for analysis.

Upon discovering an unknown chemical in your workspace, first communicate with all other department or laboratory members about its identity (*without* moving or opening it). If the unknown is still not identified, follow the steps below for disposal:

1. Do not attempt to open, move, or relocate the chemical.
2. *Immediately* submit an EHS service request with a best guess or guesses as to the identification of the unknown chemical(s) by going to nau.edu/ehs.
3. Call the Hazardous Waste Supervisor at (928) 523-5903. Leave a message if there is no answer.
4. Put a sign near the chemical that identifies it as unknown and warns others not to disturb it.