



WASTE NEWS

A HAZARDOUS WASTE NEWSLETTER



A PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

WASTE NEWS IS A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER, WRITTEN, EDITED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY. THE GOAL OF THE NEWSLETTER IS TO SHARE TIMELY RELEVANT WASTE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES WITH THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FACULTY, STAFF AND SAFETY SERVICES.

ANOTHER STIMULUS PACKAGE?!?!

BY JEFF CARTER, HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGER

That's right – the United States Government isn't the only player in town handing out freebies. Not to be outdone by President Obama, the Hazardous Waste Group of Stony Brook University's (SBU) Environmental Health & Safety Department has put together our own stimulus package. You all are working hard to comply with the myriad of rules and regulations imposed upon you, as well as to protect the environment and keep each other safe. Therefore, we'd like to provide you with some tools to make your jobs a bit easier. Please see the following list of items available to you ***at no cost*** and contact Jeff Carter, Manager of Hazardous Waste at jeffrey.carter@stonybrook.edu if you are interested in obtaining any of the items listed below (limit one of each item per requestor). Please identify your full name, SBU 4-digit Zip Code and the item(s) you would like (by referencing the item number) in your email.

1. **Potassium Iodide Peroxide Test Paper** - The presence of peroxides in chemicals can be tested with simple indicator paper. Potassium iodide paper is sensitive to peroxide concentration below 100 ppm. This test is sensitive to the formation of hydroperoxide which is the principal hazard associated with peroxide-forming solvent.

Do you work with or currently have in storage ***peroxide-forming chemicals***? Peroxide-forming chemicals are a class of compounds that have the ability to form shock-sensitive explosive peroxide crystals. These compounds tend to absorb and react with oxygen from the air to form unstable peroxides. Many of the organic solvents commonly used at SBU have the potential to form these explosive peroxide crystals. Class B chemicals, which include but aren't limited to ***diethyl ether, dioxanes, 2-propanol*** and ***tetrahydrofuran***, may be tested for peroxides using **Potassium Iodide Peroxide Test Paper**. If tested and no peroxides are present, the chemical label may be re-dated and initialed, and the chemical kept for an additional 6 months. For more information and to obtain the full list of peroxide-forming chemicals, please see <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/waste/news.shtml>.

2. **Vented Caps** - Certain chemicals and chemical mixtures (***including hazardous waste***) can cause container distortion due to product off-gassing, oxygen scavenging/product migration, changes in temperature, changes in altitude and dispensing. In an effort to control these conditions if and when they occur, the SBU Hazardous Waste Group is offering alternative container caps that provide for a "vented" closure. **Circumvent**[®] is a patented vented liner system developed to eliminate the swelling or collapsing of containers by allowing them to "breathe" without leaking. **Circumvent**[®] vented caps are designed for solutions containing low surface tension liquids, such as surfactants, solvents, oils, acids and alcohols. For more information, please visit <http://psix.com/index.htm>.
3. **Spill Kits*/Absorbent Material** - Spill control equipment must be readily available to quickly respond to minor releases of the types of chemicals used and hazardous waste generated in your laboratory. SBU's Hazardous Waste Group has a very limited supply of basic spill kits* available to you. Additionally, we have recently obtained a new product called **GREEN STUFF**[®] **Absorbent**, which is a light, easy to carry and apply absorbent that does the same job as standard clay/liter type absorbent, but does so three times faster, weighs almost 90% less, requires 70% less storage space and is more cost effective. With **GREEN STUFF**[®] **Absorbent** virtually any hazardous material can be removed quickly and easily. It is non-toxic and biodegradable, and is suitable for approved landfill disposal or incineration.