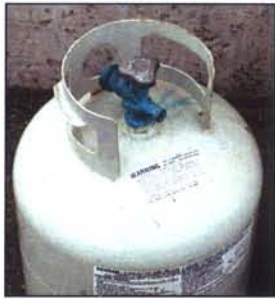


# Safety Alert – Hazardous Materials

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 immediately to the 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 hoses and clamps, pyrex glass, corning containers and other containers with rubber hoses attached. Bed sheets or pillowcases stained red or containing a white powdery residue may also be found.

## BIOHAZARD MATERIAL: Medical Waste / Syringes / Needles



This is the symbol for biohazard materials that could possibly be found on the roadway. If you find a container with this symbol and/or other materials looking like medical or drug related waste **DO NOT TOUCH**, report location to the nearest Mn/DOT office.



## 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.

## EXPLOSIVES

Home-made fireworks or explosives can cause serious personal injuries. If you see any suspicious objects **DO NOT TOUCH**. Leave the area immediately. **CALL 911** and notify the proper authorities.



## ABANDON CONTAINERS: Drums / Cans / Boxes

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	Pesticide/Herbicide containers	Dead animals
Bulging or dented containers	Hypodermic needles	Paint cans
Chemical Containers	Sharp objects	Narcotics
Unidentifiable containers	Weapons	Used oil
Unidentifiable materials	Broken automotive batteries	Antifreeze
Gas cans (see below)	Containers leaking an unknown substance	



Item pictured is called "ITZAGASCAN", a composite (poly liner in outer cardboard box) 1 gallon disposable gas can now being marketed. The can, as shown, is designed as a single trip container, to be thrown away after one use. Please watch for these packages. Contact our office immediately (1-800-657-3971 or 218-828-5700) if you find one or local public safety officials and the Minnesota Duty Officer (1-800-422-0798) if found after our office hours. Please use the same precautions as you would with any other hazardous materials.

## DO:

- 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.
- 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
- Put your **safety** and the safety of the individuals with you **FIRST AND FOREMOST**.
- 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. Notify the proper authorities.