

# EHS-20 – BATTERY DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

## WHY ARE BATTERIES HAZARDOUS?

Batteries contain a variety of toxic and/or corrosive materials such as heavy metals and potassium hydroxide. They are a special form of hazardous waste, known as Universal Waste, and must be managed per regulations.

This Training Tool is for university-generated batteries only.

## HOW SHOULD I DISPOSE OF MY BATTERIES?

1. Contact the Dept. of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) at x 4804 to establish a Used Battery Collection Area.
2. Separate university-generated batteries from other wastes/materials.
3. Place small (< 1 lbs. in weight) batteries in the designated used battery collection container.
4. Large batteries (>1 lb.) must be further segregated from your battery waste stream; contact the EHS Dept. for instructions.



**Note:** *The waste generator is responsible for placing tape (No duct tape) on the terminal ends of all lithium ion batteries and alkaline batteries > 1.5 Volts, as shown in the photo to the left.*

5. Per ADEM regulations, battery collection containers must:
  - a. Remain closed unless batteries are being added and be able to contain leakage (a plastic container is best).

- b. Have specific wording on the container: "Universal Waste-Batteries".
- c. State the date batteries are first added.

Universal Waste Batteries  
Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BATTERIES?

Battery collection containers are on a 3-month collection cycle. If your container reaches the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -full point before the next scheduled collection, contact the EHS Dept. Universal Waste cannot remain on site for more than 1 year, therefore the EHS Dept. needs to know if you are accumulating waste batteries.

After collection, batteries are separated by type and prepared for shipment. They are sent to a waste management/recycling company where they are processed. Many components are recycled. The portion that cannot be recycled is disposed of compliantly.

## CAN I BRING BATTERIES FROM HOME?

UNA is not accepting home-generated batteries for disposal. You are encouraged to find battery recycling resources in the local community for your home-generated waste batteries, such as big box home improvements centers.

## WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Contact the EHS Dept. at X4804.

## REFERENCES

- Alabama Department of Environmental Management Chapter 335-14-11: *Standards for Universal Waste Management*