

STATE OR FEDERAL HAZARDOUS WASTE INSPECTIONS

(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and/or the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may inspect UNL operations to assess our compliance status with regard to hazardous waste regulations. Inspections are generally unannounced and are often conducted in research and teaching laboratories, maintenance and custodial operations, or auxiliary operations such as Transportation or Printing Services. EHS will notify Departments when NDEQ or EPA is present for the purpose of conducting an inspection. Regulatory authorities will be interested in management practices for chemical wastes, as well as other types of wastes such as spent fluorescent lamps, non-alkaline batteries, spent smoke detectors, aerosol cans, and used oil. EHS publishes specific guidance in the forms of SOPs for each of these waste types.

The following guidelines describe what you should do if NDEQ or EPA conducts an inspection of your work area:

- When notified of an inspection, go to your work area and conduct a brief review of the following:
 - ✓ Make sure all containers are closed and labeled.
 - ✓ Check trashcans to make sure unacceptable items are not present.
 - ✓ Clean and organize your area as necessary. A disorganized, dirty, or messy work area tends to draw more attention from inspectors.
- Be honest.
- Answer only the question that is being asked. Do not offer information.
- Do not suppose or extrapolate. You should know what you are doing. If asked about the work of others, direct the inspector to someone that can answer their questions with firsthand knowledge.
- If in doubt, refer the inspector to your supervisor.