

Email Requests for Radwaste Pickup

Research Safety has a new way to request pick-up of radioactive waste from laboratories. Instead of calling the office and requesting new containers by telephone, you can now send a form via email that tells us everything we need to know before replacing a full container with an empty one. The new form is available on our web site at http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ors/online_forms.htm under the drop-down menu for **Radiation Use Instructions and Forms**.

Since there is a different MS Word document for each campus, you should save a copy of the master document for your campus to your hard drive and save each completed form to send it as an email attachment. There are drop-down menus on each form with the types of containers used at Northwestern. Each form can accommodate more than one type of radwaste. We developed two email addresses specifically for this purpose. Use either evradwaste@northwestern.edu or chradwaste@northwestern.edu, depending on your campus.

The storage and handling of radioactive waste is still the same as it's been for many years. Here are some waste handling and labeling practices you may be overlooking:

- The waste card must be completed with radionuclide, estimated activity and any organic or otherwise hazardous component before we can pick the old container.
- Avoid producing any radioactive waste with a hazardous chemical component. Contact ORS before generating any such mixed hazard waste.
- For short-lived radioactivity, deface all radiation caution symbols (propellers) before placing any item in the radwaste. This includes empty stock vials.
- Do not wait until the container is overflowing before contacting ORS. It may take a day or two for us to get there.
- Do not empty liquid scintillation vials. We'll pick them up with the cocktail still inside.
- Do not put loose sharps in a radwaste container.

For a more complete discussion of radioactive waste practices at Northwestern University, see section 22.0 of the Radiation Safety Handbook.

Use this *NU*trino as a training tool for new workers and refresher training for current workers. Circulate it among the radiation workers in your group and have them sign and date the training form on the back. File it with your authorization and other radiation safety documents for review during regulatory inspections. Discuss it during laboratory meetings. You can find back issues at <http://www.research.northwestern.edu/research/ors/rad/nutrino/>.