

## **Medical Waste Compliance**

In an effort to confirm compliance with Department of Transportation regulations for medical waste transport, the Department of Occupational Health and Safety is currently auditing common waste holding areas and conducting record reviews. A number of specific items have been noted during the audits that could potentially place you and UAB in a position that could result in fines and penalties. Some of the issues identified are:

- Containers that are over packed
- Wrong type liner bags placed in the medical waste vendors containers
- Liner bags that are not tied correctly
- Waste found on the floor in these common rooms
- Waste holding area is not secured and...
- Medical waste training that has either lapsed or was not taken at all

To address the last point, recently a number of individuals have been identified from the Stericycle receipts that either never had training or the training has expired. Medical waste training must be completed every three years or if regulations or job duties change. 49 CFR Subpart H reads in part:

...each employee who performs any function related to the transport of medical waste must be trained and tested on that function before performing the function and at least every three (3) years thereafter. If job duties or regulations change, updates are required.

Completion of this training is fundamental in addressing some of the other concerns noted above. The training can be taken directly from the OH&S web site.

<http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/4DLINK1/4DCGI/ET/HOME/LIST>

The course number for this training is BIO301L. This training has been specifically developed for medical waste issue found in research laboratory environments.

### ***The Bottom Line***

- ***Make sure your training is up to date before you sign a medical waste pick-up receipt.***
- ***Make sure all medical waste is packed appropriately***
- ***Make sure all supplies related to medical waste disposal and transport are appropriate***

**For more information or help contact the Department of Occupational Health and Safety at 4-2487.**