

**SSP SPECIFIC HAZARD ATTACHMENT: DRUMS**

**Checklist of Requirements for Handling Drums  
(as well as Tanks, and Vaults)**

- Drums meet DOT, OSHA, EPA regulations for the waste they contain, including shipping
- Drums are inspected and their integrity ensured prior to movement OR
  - Drums are moved to an accessible location (staging area) prior to movement
- Unlabelled drums are treated as unknown until properly identified and labeled
- Site activities are organized to minimize drum handling
- Employees are properly warned about the hazards of moving and handling drums
- Suitable overpack drums are available for addressing leaking and ruptured drums
- Leaking materials from drums are properly contained
- If they cannot be moved, drums are emptied of contents with proper transfer equipment
- Suspected buried drums are surveyed with an underground detection system
- Soil and cover material above buried material above buried drums are removed with caution
- Proper fire-extinguishing equipment is on-scene to control incipient fires
- Air lines on supplied air systems are protected from leaking drums
- If drums are explosive, employees are at a safe distance, using remote equipment, and response equipment are behind protective shields
- If workers are opening explosive drums, protective shields are in place
- If atmosphere is flammable or potentially flammable, non-sparking tools are used
- If drums are under extreme pressure, they are opened slowly and workers are protected by shields or sufficient distance
- Workers are prohibited from standing and working on drums
- Drum handling equipment is positioned and operated to minimize sources of ignition
- If drums are shock sensitive, all non-essential employees are evacuated
- If drums are shock sensitive, handling equipment has shields to protect workers
- Alarms are in place to announce start and finish of handling of explosive drums
- Continuous communications are in place between the drum handling site and the incident command post
- Drums under pressure are properly controlled prior to handling
- Drums containing packaged laboratory wastes are treated as shock sensitive
- Lab pack are opened by trained and experience personnel
- Lab packs that show crystallization are treated as shock sensitive
- Drum staging areas are managed with well-marked access and egress
- Drums are bulked only after drum contents have been properly identified

**Distributed by:**

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