



RECOVERED CHEMICAL MATERIEL DIRECTORATE FACT SHEET

MANAGING SECONDARY WASTE

Destruction of chemical warfare materiel creates secondary waste. The Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (RCMD) disposes of secondary waste at permitted commercial treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

Waste includes liquid neutralants, munition bodies, used personal protective equipment, laboratory waste, used carbon filters, overpack containers, and byproducts of the destruction process that are free of compounds controlled by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) treaty.

The handling and disposal of this waste remains consistent with methods used for disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous waste, which is regulated by federal and state agencies to ensure safe handling.

RCMD disposes of secondary waste in a safe, environmentally sound and cost-effective manner, ensuring compliance with the CWC.



After chemical warfare materiel is neutralized, liquid waste is drained from the vessel of RCMD's Explosive Destruction System (EDS) to 55-gallon waste drums, which make up the EDS waste transfer subsystem.

Newer EDS units use a different waste transfer subsystem. Larger drums allow operations to continue with fewer interruptions for waste disposal, resulting in shorter operations.

