HEALTH & SAFETY: LAB SAFETY

U of G research laboratories were recently inspected by the Ministry of the Environment and the recommendation to all laboratories at U of G include:

- The characterization, management storage and disposal of laboratory wastes (chemical waste including hazardous waste, biohazardous and medical waste) is regulated and requires strict compliance with regulatory obligations.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) for each laboratory has overall responsibility for managing the process of:
  - characterizing laboratory waste
  - containerizing laboratory waste
  - marking/labeling laboratory waste and,
  - managing laboratory waste in their laboratory spaces. It was recommended that all waste shall be placed in a containment large enough to contain the total amount of a waste.
- EHS (Environmental Health & Safety) Department is responsible for transfer of chemical wastes, radioactive wastes, and mixed wastes from laboratory areas to Chemical Management Centre for treatment (i.e., bulking) or package consolidation and managed storage prior to the transport to off-site treatment and disposal facilities.

The University of Guelph operates as a large quantity generator of hazardous waste. The management and storage of hazardous waste is subject to regulatory compliance obligations; the University Laboratories are regularly audited and inspected for compliance with these regulatory compliance obligations. Proper Hazardous Waste Management applies all to laboratories on campus (teaching labs, research labs, art labs, photo labs, field labs, diagnostic labs in teaching hospitals, and areas that support labs such as chemical stockrooms or prep rooms).

Should you have any questions regarding Hazardous Waste management, please send an email to lso@uoguelph.ca