

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

New England Laboratories Project XL COMPARISON OF RESULTS			
Environmental Awareness Survey Baseline Results	Boston College	UVM	UMass Boston
	Percentage - Last year's results in paren	Percentage - Last year's results in paren	Percentage - Last year's results in paren
1. Which federal agency regulates the disposal of chemical wastes:			
a. Occupational Safety and Health Administration			
b. Environmental Protection Agency	88 (53)	84 (69)	81 (42)
c. Department of Transportation			
d. National Institutes of Health			
2. Ultimately, most chemical waste generated in laboratories are:			
a. incinerated	50 (20)	47 (26)	17 (28)
b. sent to a land-fill			
c. release to a sewer			
d. treated			
3. What are the main reasons researchers should keep containers of laboratory waste securely closed except when adding chemicals?			
1 reason			
2 reasons	88 (46)	61 (46)	26 (12)
3 reasons			36 (17)
4. Which costs more, purchase or disposal of laboratory chemicals?			
a. disposal costs more	12 (67)	87 (78)	82 (44)
b. purchase costs more			
c. costs are roughly the same			
5. In the book, "Prudent Practices in the Laboratory", what is the preferred waste management hierarchy for pollution prevention? Use a scale of 1-4 with 1 being the preferred management method.			
Recycling/Reuse/Recovery			
Land Disposal			
Source Reduction	19	67 (52)	70
Treatment			
6. What is the proper way to dispose of strong mineral acids?			
a. Dilution with water			
b. Neutralization with lime			
c. Collection for pick-up by hazardous waste personnel	57 (19)	82 (77)	60 (7)
d. Mixing with organic chemicals			
7. What is the maximum amount of acutely hazardous laboratory waste that your laboratory is allowed to accumulate?	44% (26) correct	57% (31) correct	42% (31) correct

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8. What emergency response equipment is available in your laboratory to respond to a hazardous chemical spill?			
0			
1-3 items	69 (54)	81 (73)	72 (68)
4-6 items			
7 items			
9. How is waste water from your laboratory buildings treated?			
a. Purification before release to the sewer			
b. pH is controlled by acid neutralization, then released to the sewer			
c. Diluted with the rest of the building's water, then goes to the sewer for municipal treatment by aerobic digestion	69 (33)	82 (72)	56 (22)
10. In general, how are fume hood emissions controlled in your laboratory?			
a. Filtration to remove particles			
b. Carbon filtration to remove gases			
c. Dilution with laboratory room air	19 (12)	51 (38)	65 (21)
d. There are no fume hoods in my laboratory /other			
11. The last time you needed health and safety information about a particular chemical, what resource(s) did you use?			
0 responses			
1 response	100 (64)	55 (57)	41 (41)
2 responses			
3 responses			
12. Typically, what is the largest environmental impact of laboratory work?			
a. release of toxic chemicals through the fume hood			
b. disposal of toxic chemicals with a hazardous waste disposal company			
c. release of chemicals to the sewer system		38 (49)	57
d. energy use to cool or heat laboratory space	25 (7)	32 (20)	14 (13)
13. The last time you disposed of laboratory hazardous waste, what four pieces of information did you put on the label?			
0			
1-3			70 (23)
4-6	100 (9)	39 (17)	2 (29)
7-9			
14. What document(s) describes how to dispose of laboratory hazardous waste at your institution?	50 (0)	32 (0)	51 (0)

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15. What is your current role in your laboratory?			
Faculty			
Staff – Administrator			
Staff - Lab Tech			
Graduate Student			
Undergraduate Student			
16. How many years have you been working in college or university laboratories?			
less than 1 year			
1-2 years			
3-5 years			
more than 5 years			