

**Policies and Procedures**

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| **Policy Title:**  Battery Disposal | | | | | |
| **Department Responsible:**  Safety | **Policy Code:**  OP-SAF-2007-07 | | **Effective Date:**  January 5, 2016 | | **Next Review/Revision Date:**  January 2019 |
| **Title of Person Responsible:**  Safety Manager | | **Approval Council:**  Leadership Council | | **Date Approved by Council:**  December 9, 2015 | |

# PURPOSE:

To provide a safe method of recycling applicable batteries as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

# POLICY:

Cone Health shall dispose of or recycle certain batteries as universal waste. These include:

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| **Battery Type** | **Typical Source(s) of Generation** |
| Lead acid | automobiles, floor scrubbers, wheelchairs, portable generators |
| Lithium | camera, calculators |
| Mercury oxide (button cell) | hearing aids, oxygen monitors, fetal monitors, portable EKG monitors |
| Nickel cadmium (rechargeable) | calculators, pagers, medical equipment backup power |
| Nickel metal hydride (rechargeable) | calculators, pagers, medical equipment backup power |
| Silver oxide | medical electronics, hearing aids |

Alkaline batteries are common non-rechargeable batteries that are not regulated as hazardous waste and may be disposed of in regular trash.

# PROCEDURE:

Each individual battery that is collected for recycling shall be placed in an individual plastic bag designed for that purpose. Departments can obtain the plastic bags from the Storeroom (Materials Management). Once the battery is sealed inside of the plastic bag, it can then be placed in the department’s battery collection container.

All facilities within Cone Health that collect batteries identified in this policy for any length of time prior to disposal shall have a container for collecting and holding until pickup by an approved vendor.

The container in which the batteries are held must be marked or labeled “Waste Batteries.” The container must also indicate an accumulation start date by marking or labeling the date the first battery was placed in the container. Containers must be structurally sound, closeable, and lack evidence of leakage, spillage, or damage that could cause leakage. Used batteries shall not be stored longer than 12 months.

Departments such as Facilities that collect other universal waste shall label their containers “Universal Waste” and also write the contents on the container or specific label.

The Facilities Departments on hospital campuses shall receive and store batteries identified in this policy. Periodically, they shall contact a waste battery handling company to pick up and dispose of the batteries. Departments that have collected batteries for a period of time (less than one year) shall take them to the Facilities Department on their campus.

Campuses that do not have a Facilities Department shall contact our approved battery disposal company to pick up and dispose of batteries on a periodic basis.

We currently utilize IBS Environmental Services for recycling of batteries. Their address is P.O. Box 1263, Lenoir, NC 28645; telephone number is 828-396-4319; and fax is 828-396-2367.

Departments such as Environmental Services and Biomedical Equipment that utilize lead-acid batteries in powered equipment will turn in or “trade” with a vendor when purchasing new batteries. Any lead-acid batteries that are stored (that is, not traded out immediately) must be stored together and labeled as “Waste Batteries” and must be marked with an accumulation start date. Store lead-acid batteries in a secured, covered location that is designed to contain leaks and temperature extremes. Keep batteries away from open flames or other ignitable sources. Do not stack lead-acid batteries since they may crack and leak acid and other hazardous components. Keep batteries off the ground to prevent them from coming in contact with water, which may result in contaminated runoff. Do not store batteries around floor drains or storm drains.

# REFERENCES:

Hazardous Material Regulations (HMR) 49 CFR Parts 171-180

**PREVIOUS REVISION/REVIEW DATES:**

| *Date* | *Reviewed* | *Revised* | *Notes* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| November, 2007 |  |  | Original effective date. |
| December, 2009 |  |  |  |
| December, 2012 |  |  |  |
| July, 2015 |  |  | Updated formatting to match current policy template; no content changes. |
| January, 2016 | X |  |  |