

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Hazardous materials have the potential to be dangerous to human health and the environment if not managed correctly. When using hazardous materials special attention should be paid to:

- The manner in which chemicals are stored to prevent them from reacting with other chemicals or being released into the environment.
- Ensuring that chemicals are stored in their original containers and in accordance with the instructions on the label and containers should be checked for damage and leakages periodically.
- The instructions on the labels and the material safety data sheets (MSDSs) for the proper use of any chemical.
- Not mixing chemicals as this could produce harmful gases that could be dangerous to human health and the environment.
- The use of alternative chemicals that do not have significant hazardous properties.
- Ensuring that all chemical containers are properly labelled with the name of the chemical, hazards and warning symbols.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & DRAINAGE

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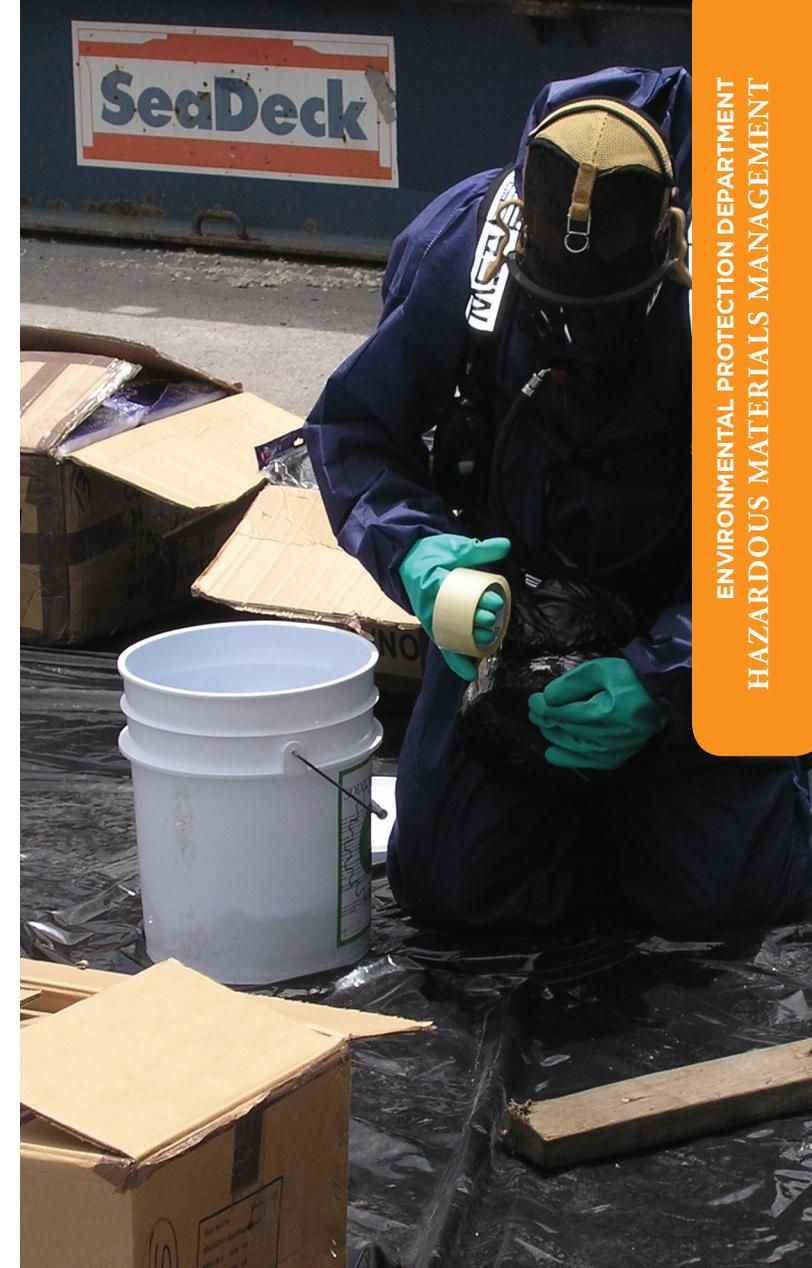
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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT



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# Hazardous Materials Management

## WHAT IS A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL?

A **hazardous material** is any substance that has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment by itself or through interaction with other factors such as air, fire or other chemicals. Hazardous materials have properties that are:

- Toxic
- Reactive
- Corrosive
- Flammable
- Radioactive
- Infective
- Carcinogenic

**Hazardous waste** can be a liquid, solid or contained gas; the by-products of manufacturing processes or discarded unused materials which have the potential to be dangerous to the health of humans and the environment.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CONCERNS WITH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS?

Human exposure to hazardous materials can result in or contribute to a variety of health effects such as respiratory complications, burns, and organ failure.

The health effects of exposure to a hazardous material depend on the nature of the hazard posed by the material and other factors such as the method of exposure, concentration and duration of exposure.

The appropriate disposal of hazardous materials is important to prevent harmful effects to human health and the environment (e.g. water, soil and air).

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD)?

The Environmental Protection Department has the responsibility for the regulation of hazardous materials which is accomplished by:

- Collecting information on the location of hazardous materials;
- Educating the public on the use and handling of hazardous materials;
- Regulating certain facilities using hazardous materials;
- Regulating and facilitating the disposal of hazardous waste;
- Advising on the best disposal methods for hazardous waste;
- Developing policies for hazardous materials management; and
- Setting standards for the collection transport, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.

## WHICH LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS GOVERN THE MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS?

### Legislation

The legislation used to manage hazardous materials in Barbados includes:

- The Radiation Protection Act CAP. 353A. An Act to give effect to Article 10 of the Radiation Protection Convention, 1960, Convention No. 115 of the International Labour Conference, relating to the protection of workers against ionising radiations.
- The Miscellaneous Control (Importation and Exportation of Goods) (Prohibition) (Radioactive Material) Regulation, 2004. Persons are required to obtain permission from the EPD prior to importation of radioactive materials.
- The Health Services (Nuisances) Regulations, 1969. These regulations control the use of materials that may be injurious or dangerous to health.
- The Health Services (Disposal of Offensive Matter) Regulations, 1969. These regulations restrict the disposal of offensive matter to approved disposal sites only.
- The Pesticides Control Act CAP. 395. This deals with the management of pesticides in Barbados.

### Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The EPD is responsible for implementing the multilateral environmental agreements which are relevant for the management of hazardous materials in Barbados. These agreements include the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Oil Spills Protocol of the Cartagena Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.