



The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) performed a hazardous waste regulatory inspection at the School of Medicine on April 5, 2018.

During the inspection, some issues were found in a few of the medical school research laboratories and the MDNR asked [Environmental Health and Safety](#) (EH&S) to send reminders to research faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students about these concerns. The reminders include:

- Unwanted Material containers with the lids not securely closed; container lids and caps merely placed on top of waste containers, not screwed tight. Reminder, federal and state regulations require lids to be securely closed, lids tightened, not simply placed on top, to prevent releases if the container is tipped over. If the unwanted material (chemical) mixture continues to slowly react and builds-up pressure in a closed waste container, [pressure relief caps](#) should be used on the waste container. (See also the [nitric acid safety alert](#) for information on how to purchase safety pressure relief caps.)
- Unwanted Material containers older than six (6) months in labs. Reminder, there is a six-month time limit for [Unwanted Material containers](#) in laboratories. Please send in a [Request for Pickup](#) to EH&S at least two weeks prior to the six-month time limit.
- Regulators expect people to be aware of the Unwanted Material waste streams in shared lab spaces, so people know the various hazards present and how to respond to emergencies in those shared spaces. While chemicals, wanted or unwanted, might not be your direct responsibility, you should be aware of hazards and be able to identify who is directly responsible for the materials in your shared space. If people leave the institution, please make sure someone has been tasked to properly manage all Unwanted Materials left behind.

More information on Unwanted Material requirements can be found [here](#), along with a [checklist](#) to help you stay in compliance.

Please contact Linda Vishino, Environmental Compliance Officer, vishinol@wustl.edu, 314-935-7864, or Livi Isringhausen, Environmental Compliance Manager, isringhausenm@wustl.edu, 314-362-6735, if you have any questions. Thank you.