Bulk Disposal of Histological Slides

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# Purpose

<<<< This SOP is left in DOCX format so that you may edit it for your own laboratory>>>

The purpose of this SOP is to lay out the responsibilities, equipment and procedures required for bulk disposal of histological slides.

Ongoing disposal of histological slides ie small amounts at a time, follow waste disposal instructions: <https://biosafety.mcmaster.ca/biosafety_waste_disposal.htm>

# Scope

This SOP applies to all persons and their Supervisors in any containment zone required to dispose of histological slides as a part of a bulk cleanup.

# Responsibilities

## Supervisors

Supervisors are responsible for:

* **Reviewing this SOP on a regular basis. Review is to consider and mitigate the risks of spill, loss of containment and exposure or other harm. Refer to Performing Risk Assessments SOP.**
* Ensuring training, personal protective equipment and disposal supplies and procedures are provided for the workers.
* Ensure the workers are trained and proficient in performing the steps of this SOP.

## Workers

Workers are responsible for:

* Following this SOP as approved by their Supervisor.
* Reporting any issues with personal protective equipment, waste closets, disposal supplies and incidents immediately to their supervisor.

# Hazards

* Cut injuries from handling glass slides and coverslips.
* Exposure to infectious materials.
* All histological slides must be disposed as biohazard glass REGARDLESS of infectious state.
* Excessive weight from disposal using primary containers that are too large, limit for weight is 25lbs per package

# Personal Protective Equipment

* Standard laboratory PPE, closed toe shoes, lab coat and eye protection where there is a risk of harm to the eye
* Disposable gloves

# Equipment

* Primary disposal container = Plastic, screw cap container or very small bag-lined cardboard box
* Black sharpie
* Forceps

# Procedure

* Deposit all glass slides and cover slips into primary disposal container
* When weight limit is reached or the container is 2/3 filled (whichever is first), the container is closed
* The container is labelled, BIOHAZARD BROKEN GLASS
* The container is deposited into a secondary biohazard waste container
  + Note that the final secondary biohazard waste container cannot exceed 25lbs, therefore be aware of the weight you are adding otherwise housekeeping will refuse to remove the waste

Preferred PRIMARY container: empty bleach bottle, or wide mouth plastic specimen container with handle.