#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

University of North Alabama

# EHS-20 BATTERY DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

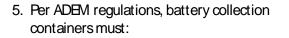
## WHY ARE BATTERIES HAZARDOUS?

Batteries contain a variety of toxic and/or corrosive materials such as heavy metals and potassium hydroxide. They are a special form of hazardous waste, known as Universal Waste, and must be managed per regulations.

This Training Tool is for university-generated batteries only.

# HOW SHOULD I DISPOSE OF MY BATTERIES?

- 1. Contact the Dept. of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) at x 4804 to establish a Used Battery Collection Area.
- 2. Separate university-generated batteries from other wastes/materials.
- 3. Place small (< 1 lbs. in weight) batteries in the designated used battery collection container.
- 4. Large batteries (>1 lb.) must be further segregated from your battery waste stream; contact the EHS Dept. for instructions.



- a. Remain closed unless batteries are being added and be able to contain leakage (a plastic container is best).
- b. Have specific wording on the container:

c. State the date batteries are first added.

# WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BATTERIES?

Battery collection containers are on a 3-month collection cycle. If your container reaches the <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>full point before the next scheduled collection, contact the EHSDept. Universal Waste cannot remain on site for more than 1 year, therefore the EHSDept. needs to know if you are accumulating waste batteries.

After collection, batteries are separated by type and prepared for shipment. They are sent to a waste management/recycling company where they are processed. Many components are recycled. The portion that cannot be recycled is disposed of compliantly.

#### CAN I BRING BATTERIES FROM HOME?

UNA is not accepting home-generated batteries for disposal. You are encouraged to find battery recycling resources in the local community for your home-generated waste batteries, such as big box home improvements centers.

#### WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Contact the EHSDept. at X4804.

### REFERENCES

Alabama Department of Environmental Management Chapter 335-14-11: Standards for Universal Waste Management