



Welcome to Week 2 of Biosafety Month! This week's focus is on ensuring staff are trained and that laboratories are following basic procedures for managing their biological research and research materials.

To better serve the UMD research community, UMD ESSR now coordinates all research safety training through the [BioRAFT research management platform](#). For your convenience, we offer many of our [courses online](#); however, some trainings, such as Shipping Infectious Substances and Dry Ice Training, are only offered in person.

How do you know what training you, or your staff, need to complete?

[View the Lab Training Requirements chart](#) to identify courses that you may need to take now or in the future as lab duties change.

Remember, there are specialized activities such as shipping infectious agents and other biological material, as well as working with animals that require training by law. Always check with your supervisor or reach out to ESSR/biosafety if you have any questions about regulated activities or training requirements.

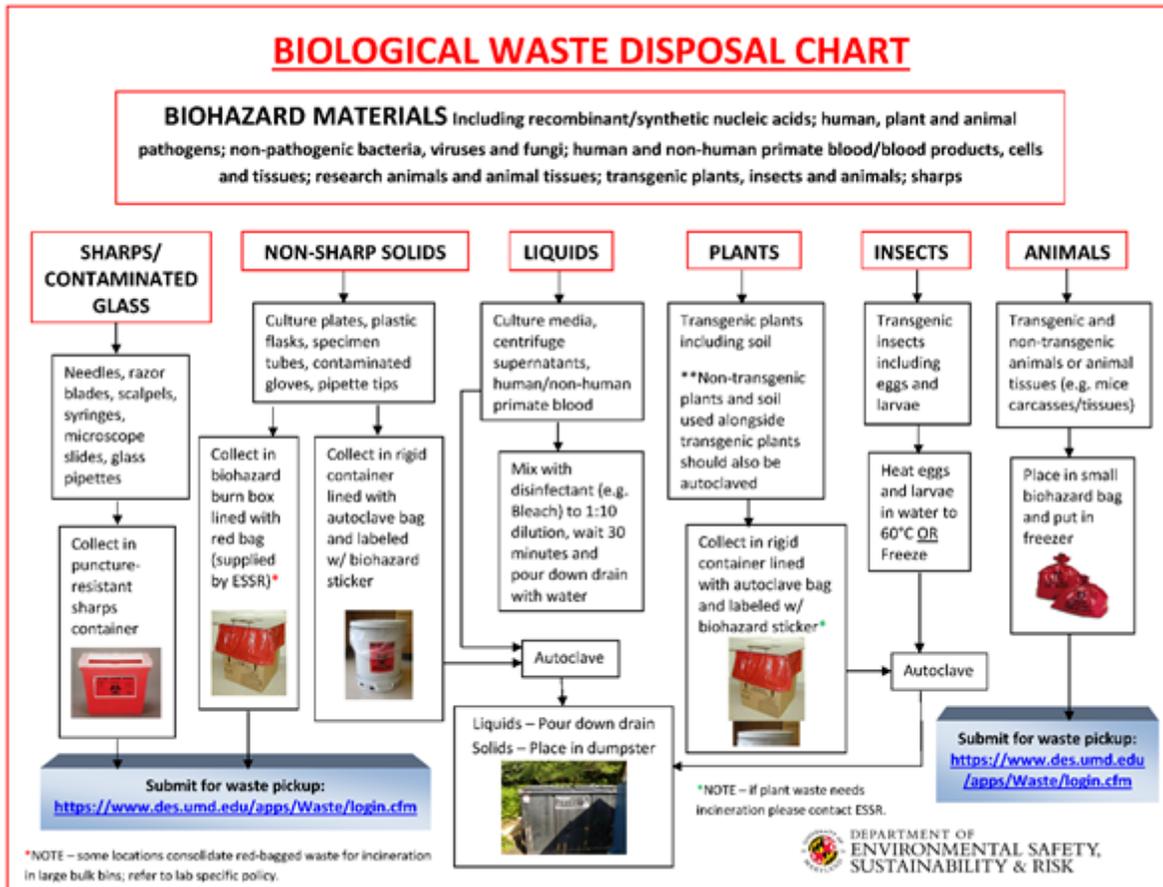
After required trainings are complete, what procedures are standard to almost every lab using biological materials?

- Make sure that all laboratory staff **complete required refresher courses** – trainings can have an annual, multi-year, or “as regulations change” requirement.
- Ensure that your research is **properly registered** through [BioRAFT](#).
- **Review and update laboratory SOPs** for use of infectious agents and/or recombinant DNA (rDNA) as experimental procedures change or personnel are added/subtracted from the laboratory. This includes collaborators and visiting scientists.
 - Add any changes to other relevant protocols (IBC, IRB, IACUC, etc)
- **Select PPE** based on the activity and risk (e.g., do not wear an N95 respirator if not cleared, ensure the gloves are appropriate for both the biological and chemical hazards present).
- Ensure staff are aware of any conditions the IBC has stipulated for approval of the research (Ex. vaccinations, medical monitoring, use of a respirator, etc.).

Unsure of where to start when developing an SOP? [Visit the Lab Specific Training template](#) to get started.

Biological Waste Management

Pictured is a **Biological Waste Disposal Chart** that provides the appropriate procedures and disposal.



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Do you have a [waste disposal guide](#)? Do you have a question regarding proper waste disposal? UMD Biosafety works closely with the ESSR [Environmental Affairs \(EA\)](#) unit, which supports faculty, staff and students in labs, offices, and maintenance shops.

If you inactivate your waste using an autoclave, [visit the Autoclave Guidance document on the ESSR webpage](#).

If you dispose of biological waste using incineration (burn) boxes, [fill out the online Biological Waste Pickup request form](#).

REMEMBER: If you are a biohazardous waste generator, you must complete the Biohazard Waste Disposal Training online through [BioRAFT](#).

What actions can I take now?

- Check your training record through [BioRAFT](#) and compare it with the [Lab Training Requirements chart on the ESSR website](#).
- Check your **regulated waste** - is it in need of a pick up? [Submit a request form](#).
- Need to **develop an SOP**? [ESSR templates and other resources are available online](#).
- Did you know that specialty containers such as puncture-resistant biological sharps containers are available from the **Chemistry Stores** on campus? [Visit the Chemistry Store page for more information](#).
- **For PI's** - Review the Lab Specific training that might apply to your lab. Does it need to be updated? Quiz your staff! What are the procedures and hazards you may encounter? What are the symptoms of an exposure to biological materials in your lab? What should you do in case of emergency or exposure?

Did you miss [Week 1's email](#)? Don't forget to send a picture or an email of your actions for Biosafety Month for a chance to **win a prize!** Email us at biosafety@umd.edu.