MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Engineering Services Division
Technical Memorandum No. 10-08-ENV-02
August 25, 2010

To: Electronic Distribution Recipients

From: Michael A. Barnes, P.E.
Division Director, Engineering Services

Subject: Abandoned Containers on Mn/DOT Right-of-Way

Expiration and Purpose
This Technical Memorandum extends the expiration date of Technical Memorandum No. 05-13-ENV-07 to August 25, 2013, unless superseded prior to the date.

Guidelines
See attachment: TM 05-13-ENV-07 Abandoned Containers on Mn/DOT Right-of-Way

Questions
For information on the technical contents of this memorandum, please contact **Mark Vogel at 651-366-3630** or **Brian Kamnikar at 651-366-3617**.

Any questions regarding publication of this Technical Memorandum should be referred to the Design Standards unit, DesignStandards.DOT@state.mn.us. A link to all active and historical Technical Memoranda can be found at http://techmemos.dot.state.mn.us/techmemo.aspx.

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Attachment:
TM 05-13-ENV-07 Abandoned Containers on Mn/DOT Right-of-Way

FOR HISTORICAL REFERENCE ONLY

-END-

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Engineering Services Division
Technical Memorandum No. 05-13-ENV-07
July 27, 2005

FOR HISTORICAL REFERENCE ONLY

To: Distribution 57, 612, 618, 650

From: Richard A. Stehr
Division Director
Engineering Services

Subject: Abandoned Containers on Mn/DOT Right-of-Way

Expiration

This Technical Memorandum supersedes Technical Memorandum No. 00-02-ENV-01 and will expire on July 27, 2010, unless superseded prior to that date.

Implementation
This will go into effect immediately.

Introduction
Mn/DOT personnel frequently encounter abandoned containers on Mn/DOT right-of-way, including rest areas, storage yards and maintenance facilities. Abandoned containers can hold a wide range of materials, some of which can be a hazard to Mn/DOT employees and the public. Abandoned containers must be handled in a safe, efficient and cost effective matter in order to protect human health and to ensure proper disposal.

Purpose
The purpose of this Technical Memorandum is to ensure abandoned containers are removed from Mn/DOT right-of-way in a safe, efficient and cost effective matter. This Technical Memorandum is limited to Mn/DOT response to abandoned materials in containers; it does not include spills of liquid or non-containerized solid wastes.

Maintenance Bulletin Number 97-1 provides the procedure for Mn/DOT response to vehicle fluid spills resulting from accidents. Mn/DOT Policy Position Statement, Multimodal Number 6.89-1 sets forth procedure for Mn/DOT response to hazardous and non-hazardous releases on trunk highway right of way.

Guidelines in this Technical Memorandum serve as an implementation plan for safe removal of abandoned containers from Mn/DOT right-of-way. Mn/DOT is responsible for all costs associated with handling, sampling and disposal of abandoned containers that do not exceed a total container volume of 416 liters **(110 gallons)**. Mn/DOT is not responsible for handling, sampling or disposal of any volume of imminent dangerous waste (see definition below) or abandoned containers that equal or exceed a total container volume of 416 liters **(110 gallons)**. Note: the 416 liter **(110 gallon)** volume threshold applies to a single container or multiple containers found in a common location.

Definitions
Abandoned container: A container that has been left on Mn/DOT right-of-way either intentionally or unintentionally is considered abandoned.

Awareness training: Training is provided for Mn/DOT employees that may encounter abandoned containers in Mn/DOT right of way. The training provides detailed information on Mn/DOT's abandoned container program. This training is provided by the Mn/DOT triage person (see definition below).

Emergency Contractor: A contractor that can be retained through the state emergency response contract or hazardous waste contract to handle waste disposal incidents.

Imminent Dangerous Waste: Any material abandoned on Mn/DOT right of way that is immediately dangerous to life and health because of toxicity, reactivity or other hazard characteristic.

Mn/DOT right of way: Mn/DOT right of way includes any property Mn/DOT owns or has right of access to, including the interstate and state trunk highway, maintenance facilities and rest areas.

Triage person: A Mn/DOT employee that has successfully completed Mn/DOT's Abandoned Container Triage Personnel Training (provided by the Mn/DOT Offices of Environmental Services and Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations). The triage person determines if the container(s) is an imminent dangerous waste or if the container(s) is safe for handling by Mn/DOT personnel. The triage person has the authority to retain an emergency contractor to handle abandoned containers that do not exceed the maximum container volume if he/she deems the container(s) unsafe for handling by Mn/DOT personnel.

Guidelines

Procedure (also see flow chart)

Mn/DOT personnel find an abandoned container(s) in common area on right of way.

1. Mn/DOT personnel determine that container(s) volume is less than 416 liters **(110 gallons)**.

   A. Mn/DOT personnel determine that the abandoned container is exempt material (sealed lead-acid batteries, fluorescent bulbs, vehicle filters and/or aerosol cans). Mn/DOT personnel can pick up and transport the container(s) to the nearest truck station or headquarters. Disposal of this material is at Mn/DOT's cost.

   B. Mn/DOT personnel determine that the abandoned container is not exempt material.

      1. Mn/DOT personnel call the triage person. The triage person will contact the State Duty Officer (800) 422-0798 or (651) 649-5451 to report discovery of the container(s). The State Duty Officer will notify Mn/DOT's Hazardous Materials Specialists in the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.

      2. Triage person determines the abandoned container(s) is not an imminent dangerous waste. Mn/DOT's Hazardous Materials Specialists in the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations are available to assist the triage person in determining transport requirements, employee safety issues and potential hazards of unknown materials

         A. Triage person determines container(s) safe for Mn/DOT personnel to handle. Mn/DOT personnel can pick up and transport the container(s) to the nearest designated Mn/DOT hazardous waste storage area. Disposal of this material is at Mn/DOT's cost.

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B. Triage person determines container(s) not safe for Mn/DOT personnel to handle. The triage person will retain an emergency contractor through the state emergency response contract or the hazardous waste contract to pick up and dispose of the material. Disposal of this material is at Mn/DOT's cost.

3. Triage person determines the abandoned container(s) is an imminent dangerous waste. The triage person will inform the State Duty Officer to contact the MPCA, requesting that the MPCA respond to the abandonment. The MPCA and/or Mn/DOT's Hazardous Material specialists will handle container(s). Disposal of this material is not at Mn/DOT's cost.

2. Mn/DOT personnel determine that container(s) volume is equal to or greater than 416 liters **(110 gallons)**.

   A. Mn/DOT personnel call the triage person.

   B. The triage person will contact the State Duty Officer who will contact the MPCA. The MPCA will handle container(s). Disposal of this material is not at Mn/DOT's cost.

3. The triage person will record <u>all incidents</u> on the Abandoned Container Notification and Assessment form provided by the Office of Environmental Services (available in the Electronic Document Management System as system number 435504). The triage person will send a copy of the completed form to the Office of Environmental Services.

4. The Abandoned Container Program will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services annually for compliance and effectiveness. The Office of Environmental Services will review completed Abandoned Container Notification and Assessment forms and purchased services coding reports.

5. Awareness training will be provided to all Mn/DOT employees, contractors hired by Mn/DOT to maintain rest areas and district coordinators of the Adopt-a-Highway program who might encounter an abandoned container in the field. District coordinators provide information regarding abandoned containers to Adopt-a-Highway volunteers.

6. All triage personnel will have Abandoned Container Triage Personnel Training provided by the Mn/DOT Offices of Environmental Services and Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.

Questions

For information on the technical contents of this memorandum, please contact the **Office of Environmental Services at (651) 284-3790 or (651) 284-3768**. Any questions regarding the publication and distribution of this Technical Memorandum should be referred to Benjamin Christensen, Design Standards Unit at (651) 284-3447, or Mohammad Dehdashti, Design Standards Engineer at (651) 296-4859. All active Memoranda and a list of historical Technical Memoranda can be viewed at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/tecsup/tmemo/index.html

Attachment(s): Abandoned Container Flow Chart

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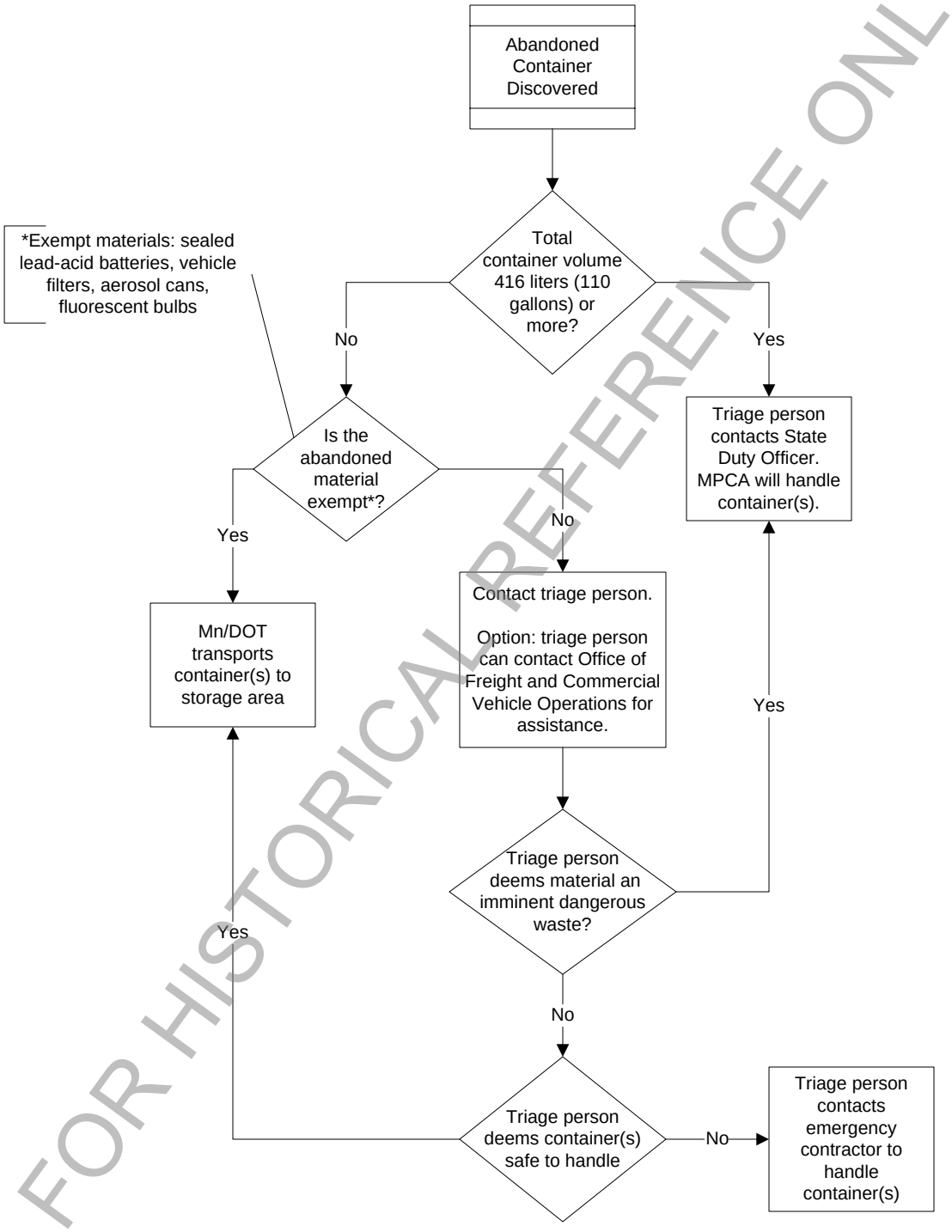
Abandoned Container Flow Chart



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