

# Environment, Health and Safety Hazard Alert

**Title: Biohazard contamination**

**Audience: Laboratory PIs and Personnel**

## Incident Summary:

The day prior to the incident, a graduate student moved two yellow biomedical waste containers into the public hallway to facilitate lab floor cleaning. The containers had no lids present and were left overnight. On the day of the incident, materials from the yellow containers were discarded into the glass collection cart used by caretaking causing biohazard contamination.

## Investigation Findings:

- Two Yellow Biomedical Waste Containers were moved from the lab to the public hallway overnight
- Other staff passed by the open containers and did not remove them from the public hallway
- Biohazard materials from the containers contaminated the glass collection cart
- The incident was not federally reportable since the hazard was removed before leaving campus

## Actions Taken:

- Removal of the contaminated materials from cart
- Enforcement of, and emphasis on, training requirements for lab and caretaking staff regarding waste disposal

## Key Takeaways:

- Waste container-specific procedures must be followed at all times
- Hazardous materials must not be left unsecured in public areas

## Additional Resources:

- [Biosafety Program](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Disposal Manual](#)

