What Are The Potential Hazards?

Junkyard businesses buy or accept discarded, wrecked and abandoned automobiles, trucks, buses and trailers. Generally, junk vehicles remain in the junkyard for a specified time period (6 months - 1 year) during which all useful parts are removed and offered for sale. Junk vehicles may also be sold intact. Vehicles that remain in the lot for a long period of time are usually crushed and sent to a scrap metal facility.

Some junkyard operators collect brake and transmission fluids, antifreeze, batteries, gasoline and motor oil from the junk vehicles. Waste fluids are generally stored on-site in 55 gallon drums or in tanks. Uncontaminated gasoline may be stored for use by junkyard forklifts and other machinery. Usable batteries are stored and offered for sale; unusable batteries are collected and stored. Storage areas for waste fluids are a potential threat to ground water quality.

Best Management Practices

- Do not mix any hazardous waste with anything, e.g., kerosene or gasoline.
- Store solvents and degreasers in tightly covered containers.
- Batteries should be kept intact. To avoid leakage, batteries should be stored on pallets, banded and protected from the elements and unauthorized handling. Batteries that do not leak are not a hazardous waste and can be transported as a hazardous material to a reclaimer.
- Oil contaminated soil must be handled as a hazardous waste.
- Although antifreeze is not listed as a hazardous waste, it can contaminate ground water. Antifreeze should be shipped with a hazardous waste transporter as a "non-hazardous" waste or taken to a hazardous waste facility. Antifreeze should not be disposed in a landfill or septic system.
- Wastes should be stored in 55 gallon drums or other leakproof containers. Drums and containers should be fitted with secure lids to prevent spills, leaks and the introduction of precipitation.
- Outdoor storage facilities should have a permanent roof to prevent precipitation and sunlight from entering the storage area.
- Rags contaminated with paint, solvents, grease or oil should be sent to a rag rental/recycling facility.