



Hazardous Waste Management in Idaho

Introduction

This report covers the time period from January 1 through December 31, 2020. It describes the types and amounts of hazardous waste generated in Idaho, how this waste was managed, and any waste remaining on-site. The report also discusses the types and amounts of hazardous waste received in Idaho from other states and countries. This information is compiled by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from the Idaho Hazardous Waste Generator Annual Reports submitted by large quantity hazardous waste generators (LQGs) and small quantity hazardous waste generators (SQGs), as required by Idaho Code § 39-4411(4) of the Idaho Hazardous Waste Management Act (HWMA), and from reports submitted by commercial hazardous waste disposal facilities, as required by Idaho Code § 39-4411(5). This report is distributed to the governor, legislature, and public to present an annual overview of Idaho's hazardous waste management activities. [DEQ's website](#) provides additional information.

DEQ contributes to the national overview of hazardous waste management activities through federal biennial reporting and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo). The biennial report describes national hazardous waste activities as reported by LQGs and treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities every other year. RCRAInfo assigns hazardous waste facility identification numbers and tracks hazardous waste permitting, enforcement, and corrective action at hazardous waste generation facilities. Biennial reporting and RCRAInfo are used by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to track and report national hazardous waste activities to the president, US Congress, and public. Access this information at [RCRAInfo Web](#).

Hazardous Waste Rules

Idaho anticipates adopting two new federal rules in spring 2021. The first rule adds aerosol cans generated by businesses to the universal waste program, which will allow them to be managed under a streamlined set of storage, labeling, and accumulation limit requirements while reducing tracking and disposal costs. The rule also sets standards for puncturing aerosol cans. Overall, this rule is intended to help businesses improve management and increase recycling of their aerosol cans.

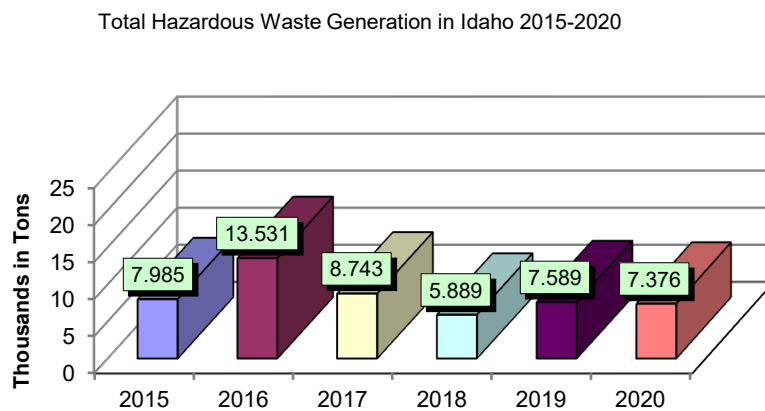
The second rule establishes a new set of standards for managing pharmaceutical hazardous waste from healthcare and retail facilities. In addition to the new standards, US Food and Drug Administration-approved, over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapies will no longer be

considered hazardous waste. Further, the rule provides regulatory clarity on the reverse distribution process for prescription pharmaceuticals and the reverse logistics process for nonprescription pharmaceuticals and other unsold retail items.

DEQ provides more information on the rules and Idaho’s adoption at [Hazardous Waste in Idaho](#).

The Report

As reported by Idaho LQGs and SQGs, 7,376 tons of hazardous waste was generated in Idaho during 2020. Figure 1 depicts the trend in statewide hazardous waste generation in recent



years.

Figure 1. Statewide hazardous waste generated from 2015 to 2020.

The wastes are identified by the following categories:

- Other Wastes—1,951 tons
This waste includes discarded commercial chemicals (4 tons), universal wastes (110 tons), and miscellaneous listed wastes (1,837 tons).
- Characteristic Wastes—2,942 tons
This waste is hazardous because it contains one or more characteristic of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity.
- Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Wastes—1,271 tons
This hazardous waste is generated from residuals and collection systems at permitted TSD facilities and hazardous waste landfills.
- Solvent Wastes—814 tons
Spent solvents are generated by various industry and business activities such as parts degreasing, painting, various manufacturing processes, and dry cleaning.
- Mixed Wastes—398 tons
This waste is both hazardous and radioactive. For 2020, most mixed waste was generated and stored at the Idaho National Laboratory.

- Remediation Wastes—0.44 tons
Most remediation wastes are generated from the cleanup of contaminated sites, performing corrective action, and/or removing and upgrading underground storage tanks.

Trends in Idaho Hazardous Waste Generation

The amount of hazardous waste generated in Idaho, as reported by Idaho LQGs and SQGs, decreased from 7,589 tons in 2019 to 7,376 tons in 2020, a decrease of 3%.

Four hazardous waste categories decreased in 2020, including Other Wastes, Solvent Wastes, Mixed Wastes, and Remediation Waste. Mixed Waste is generated primarily by the US Department of Energy sites, and Remediation Waste can fluctuate from year-to-year.

Two categories experienced an increase: Characteristic Wastes and TSD Wastes. The majority of ongoing, recurrent hazardous waste generators continue to find ways to decrease the amounts of hazardous waste they typically generate, which means public health and Idaho's environment benefit from businesses practicing waste minimization such as recycling and distillation.

Waste Sent to Idaho in 2020

The only commercial hazardous waste landfill operating in Idaho is US Ecology Idaho, Inc. in Owyhee County near Grand View. Traditionally, waste received at US Ecology Idaho has been reported in three categories:

1. RCRA—This waste is defined by RCRA and HWMA as hazardous. It is regulated by Idaho and the federal government.
2. PCB/TSCA—This waste is defined as a toxic substance by the federal Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). Currently, this waste (primarily PCB materials) is regulated in Idaho only by the federal government.
3. Non-Haz¹—This category includes both nonhazardous waste and waste regulated as manifested state hazardous wastes by other states, including Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program/Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (FUSRAP/NORM wastes), and must be disposed in a permitted RCRA hazardous waste disposal facility when shipped to Idaho.

In 2020, US Ecology Idaho received 109,218 tons of waste, a decrease of 3% from the 112,343 tons received during 2019. Most of the waste (104,653 tons or 96%) received at US Ecology Idaho came from other states and countries. Missouri sent the most waste (36,174 tons) to US Ecology Idaho for disposal in 2020. Idaho generators sent 4,655 tons (4%) of waste

¹ This category was previously identified as the State Waste category. However, due to changes in waste disposal options, DEQ determined that this category should be designated as the Nonhazardous category. It does still contain small amounts of waste regulated as manifested state hazardous waste by other states.

to US Ecology Idaho in 2020. Table 1 details the various states/countries and amounts of waste they shipped to US Ecology Idaho in 2020.

Table 1. Waste sent to Idaho in 2020 (tons).

State	Rank	RCRA	TSCA	Non-Haz	2020 Total	% of Total	2019 Total
MO	1	0.00	0.00	36,174.10	36,174.1	33.1	2,911.4
IL	2	13.17	0.00	23,987.83	24,001.0	21.9	17,566.3
WA	3	3,459.02	*55.00	3,151.56	6,665.93	6.1	4,793.4
UT	4	264.51	31.61	5,609.53	5,905.6	5.4	4,030.0
ND	5	0.00	2.72	5,691.77	5,694.5	5.2	11,915.9
AK	6	89.88	*4.70	5,588.54	5,683.1	5.2	1,182.5
OR	7	1,008.60	37.82	4,079.04	5,125.5	4.6	4,677.8
CA	8	4,192.62	0.04	811.04	5,003.7	4.5	1,754.1
ID	9	1,920.88	299.23	2,434.64	4,654.7	4.2	1,988.6
HI	10	0.00	0.00	2,711.17	2,711.4	2.4	1.4
TX	11	532.30	0.51	714.84	1,247.6	1.1	1,947.4
MT	12	434.86	75.70	642.71	1,153.3	1.0	1,041.7
TN	13	2.91	0.00	1,050.31	1,053.2	0.9	2,641.2
NV	14	328.11	0.00	328.07	656.2	0.6	365.8
VT	15	0.00	0.00	638.29	638.3	0.5	182.8
NJ	16	0.00	0.00	626.64	626.6	0.5	27,841.1
WY	17	7.78	0.56	411.01	419.4	0.3	90.9
LA	18	22.59	0.00	353.11	375.7	0.3	77.6
MI	19	0.08	0.00	253.75	253.8	0.2	19.4
CAN ¹	N/A	0.00	0.00	195.30	195.3	0.1	238.2
AZ	20	65.15	0.00	89.56	154.7	0.1	119.0
CO	21	44.24	0.31	91.64	136.2	0.1	582.2
SD	22	58.21	48.39	13.64	120.2	0.1	256.8
KS	23	3.62	0.00	114.80	118.4	0.1	19.9
WV	24	117.08	0.00	0.12	117.2	0.1	0.0
PA	25	3.12	12.19	40.43	55.7	0.0	171.3
OH	26	0.00	0.00	53.88	53.9	0.0	17.6
WI	27	3.05	0.00	35.75	38.8	0.0	3.0
VA	28	0.00	0.00	38.46	38.5	0.0	661.8
FL	29	0.21	0.00	22.84	23.1	0.0	12.5
IA	30	12.90	0.00	6.98	19.9	0.0	983.9
KY	31	0.00	0.00	19.47	19.5	0.0	0.0
NC	32	0.00	0.00	17.01	17.0	0.0	7.0
NE	33	12.58	0.00	3.18	15.8	0.0	0.0
MD	34	0.00	0.00	13.40	13.4	0.0	6.0
MA	35	0.00	0.00	9.05	9.1	0.0	0.0
GA	36	0.00	0.00	7.45	7.5	0.0	0.9
OK	37	6.94	0.00	0.36	7.3	0.0	11.0

State	Rank	RCRA	TSCA	Non-Haz	2020 Total	% of Total	2019 Total
NM	38	0.06	0.00	6.29	6.3	0.0	38.3
AL	39	0.00	0.00	3.28	3.3	0.0	45.4
NY	40	0.91	0.00	1.35	2.3	0.0	0.0
IN	41	0.00	0.00	1.55	1.6	0.0	5.2
MS	42	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.2	0.0	4.4
SC	43	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.1	0.0	0.0
CT	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	100.9
AR	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	37.9
ME	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	4.2
MN	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	3.2
NH	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.1
AUS ²	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	144.7
SLO ³	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	42.6
Total	N/A	12,605.34	568.11	98,044.09	109,218.20	100%	112,343.03

* Combined TSCA/RCRA waste streams; ¹Canada, ²Australia, ³Slovenia

Hazardous Waste Management Methods

The State of Idaho managed a reported 8,257 tons of hazardous waste in 2020, either via a landfill, treatment, reuse, incineration, or some other method (Table 2). The amount of waste managed during 2020 includes most of the reported 7,376 tons generated in 2020, as well as waste generated in previous years, but kept in permitted storage units awaiting further treatment and disposal.

Table 2. Hazardous waste managed in Idaho in 2020 (tons).

Management Method	Total Tons	Managed In-State	Managed Out-of-State
Landfill	3,600	1,898	1,702
Treatment	2,317	1,816	501
Reuse/Recycle	311	2	309
Incineration	1,402	0	1,402
Other	627	1	626