Incident Summary:
Lab personnel were preparing chemically-contaminated solid waste for collection by Hazardous Materials Services (HMS). One of the lab personnel mistakenly placed an approximately 75%-full propane container into the bag. This bagged item was not noticed by the person closing the box and not alerted to HMS staff before collection and transportation. While preparing to use a compactor, HMS staff opened the box and discovered the propane container within the bag. The propane container was removed and sent for proper waste disposal.

Investigation Findings:
• Lab personnel were not knowledgeable or experienced with the waste disposal procedures
• Lab personnel did not recognize the hazards/risks associated with the propane container
• Lab personnel and HMS staff were exposed to a flammable and explosion hazard

Actions Taken:
• Lab personnel discussed the near miss incident and requirement to follow procedures
• Revision to Hazardous Materials Disposal Manual
• Requirements changed such that clear plastic bags must be used

Key Takeaways:
• Ensure staff are trained and competent on procedures
• Refer to hazardous waste disposal instructions in the Hazardous Materials Disposal Manual

Resources:
• Hazardous Materials Disposal Manual