



UCCS SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

34. SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF FLUORESCENT AND OTHER NON-INCANDESCENT LAMPS AND LIGHT BULBS

(For assistance, please contact [Environmental Health & Safety](#))

At UCCS, fluorescent lamps provide much of the indoor lighting, and outdoor lighting is often metal halide, high intensity discharge (HID), mercury vapor, or high-pressure sodium lamps. Storage, accumulation, and disposal of these types of lamps are subject to certain [regulatory requirements](#) because of their lead and mercury content. This SOP provides guidance to properly manage these lamps as "[Universal Waste](#)".

- ✓ Whenever possible, allow lamps to be changed out by [Facilities Management](#) staff, who have been trained in proper handling and disposal procedures.
- ✓ **If you must change out spent lamps, take care to avoid breakage.**
- ✓ **Broken lamps must be immediately bagged and boxed separately. The inner bag should be sealed with tape or some other fastener.**
- ✓ **Immediately place spent lamps in a box to prevent them from breaking.** If possible, use the box from which the replacement (new) lamps were taken.
- ✓ **Waste lamps must not be taped to the outside of the box.**
- ✓ Odd-shaped lamps can be packed in any box so long as the box is in good condition and sufficient packing material is used to prevent breakage.
- ✓ **Close the box after adding the spent lamp. Regulations** require containers be closed except when adding or removing lamps.
- ✓ **Ensure that the box is labeled** with the words "UNIVERSAL WASTE - LAMPS" and dated with the date that the first lamp was placed into the box.
- ✓ Notify [Facilities Management](#) at (719) 255-3313 when the box becomes full so it can be collected. **Waste lamps should remain in an accumulation area no longer than six (6) months.** IF YOU NOTICE A BOX THAT IS BEYOND THIS TIME LIMIT, IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY [EH&S](#).

Last reviewed by Cynthia Norton on December 15, 2015