



Clean Up Australia Day Fact Sheet

Advice for handling hazardous materials

February 2013

This fact sheet provides advice about handling hazardous materials during community clean up activities.

Examples of hazardous materials

During clean up you may come across damaged/unknown containers of hazardous materials and chemicals that require disposal. Examples of hazardous materials may include:

- pesticides
- herbicides
- fertilisers and other garden chemicals
- pool chemicals
- gas cylinders
- solvents
- corrosives (acids/alkalis)
- fuel cans & motor oils
- waste oils
- paints
- thinners, kerosene, turpentine, methylated spirits
- other packages of chemicals or unknown materials

What to do if suspected hazardous materials are found:

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is available to provide advice to clean up crews on the safe handling of suspected hazardous materials if required.

If Site coordinators are unsure what to do with an undamaged container they are encouraged to contact the fire service on **5437 8279**, and announce that they are Clean Up Australia coordinators seeking advice on possible hazardous materials.

The fire service will provide expert advice and assistance.

When dealing with hazardous materials, safety comes first. If you find:

a **leaking container of chemicals**, or
a **leaking gas cylinder** or
a **punctured or damaged gas cylinder**, or
a **chemical container that looks dangerous**
Do not handle it and keep well clear.

Site coordinators shall then call Emergency Services on **"000"** as soon as possible, request the fire service and inform them of the items observed, and their location.



If a container is found which looks like the one in the picture on the left, do not handle it and keep well clear. Site coordinators shall then call Emergency Services on **"000"** as soon as possible, request the fire service and inform them of the item observed and its location.