



OIG Heads Up

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of Inspector General
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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AT CONTRACTOR FACILITIES

The OIG issues periodic heads up to inform NASA management of lessons learned. We will highlight situations where poor internal controls led to fraud and waste. We hope you use these lessons to avoid problems at your facilities.

During a visit to an off-site NASA prime contractor responsible for the collection and sale of excess equipment and products, we discovered approximately 60 chemical drums in various stages of deterioration stored outside the facility. Many of the drums were leaking, and others exhibited signs of over-pressurization. Our review of transportation and storage records disclosed the contractor was storing hazardous materials improperly. The contractor was also transporting the hazardous materials without the required proper hazardous materials endorsements on their employees' Commercial Drivers Licenses. A review of NASA excess property documents disclosed NASA personnel were not properly documenting the hazardous materials on the shipping documents, thereby allowing transportation of hazardous materials over public roadways without proper documentation. We further discovered that the contractor altered the shipping documents to falsely reflect that the driver was a properly licensed transporter of the hazardous materials.

NASA personnel have an important role to play in uncovering this type of dangerous criminal conduct. While inspecting a facility or a contractor's work area, it is a good practice to take a close look at their entire operation and report issues that seem out of the ordinary. NASA personnel had visited the contractor facility discussed above quarterly for over two years, but no one reported the deteriorating chemical drums stored at the rear of the facility. If hazardous material storage and transportation problems are identified, they should be reported to the OIG, Office of Criminal Investigations, for action. For further information, contact your local OIG office, or the OIG Hotline.

Complaints May Be Referred To The NASA OIG Hotline At:
800-424-9183