

Case Studies: Discovering Mercury during Renovations

Presenter(s)

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Abstract Text

Renovation/demolition projects that involve hazardous wastes in University and Medical Center buildings have always presented challenges to EH&S staff. This presentation will discuss two renovation projects at Duke that escalated into demolition projects after the discovery of mercury. One project located in the Physics Building began as a simple mercury spill that was discovered by the renovation crew. Our part of the project was finally completed two months later. The second project located in the former Duke Hospital began in late spring 2005 as a pipe replacement project and by May 2006 had morphed into an acid neutralization tank sludge removal with ten waste codes. Outcomes in both cases clearly demonstrate the value of EH&S involvement in planning and implementing campus renovation projects.

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