



LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

SA-04-89

DATE: March 8, 1989

TO: All Facility Safety Heads
All Facility Coordinators

FROM: 429/Safety Manager, Head, Safety Engineering Branch,
SSQRD

SUBJECT: Filling Procedures for Oil and Hazardous Waste Drums

Generators are overfilling oil and hazardous waste drums. This has resulted in some minor spills. The consequences of overfilling drums can be very serious. Persons filling drums must leave some room for the contents to expand. This room is termed "outage" and is the amount by which a drum falls short of being liquid full. This is important because as temperatures change the liquid volume expands, and in some cases, freezes. If there is no room into which the liquid can expand, the drum will rupture, or leak, since liquids are not compressible.

Effectively immediately all generators must leave outage in any drum that contains oil or hazardous waste. The recommended outage (or room for expansion) is:

<u>Container Size</u>	<u>Outage</u>
55 Gallon Drum	3 inches
5 Gallon Drum	1 inch

If you have any questions regarding this policy you may call John Lee at 43342 or Cathy Stafford at 43207.

V. William Wessel
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