



## Hazardous Waste & Materials

Technically, the term "hazardous materials" would include the entire spectrum of such substances from pre-product materials to waste. For the following discussion, it is necessary to make a distinction between those materials that are used or created in the manufacturing process and the waste generated by that process. Pre-product materials are considered to have value and are used in, or are the purpose of the manufacturing process, and are referred to as "hazardous materials". Because they have value, hazardous materials are subject to proper management procedures. Waste, however, is just that - the valueless byproduct of the manufacturing process that must be disposed of - and is referred to as "hazardous waste". Hazardous materials which have been spilled, dumped or are otherwise released into the environment immediately become hazardous waste. In the past, hazardous waste, because it is considered worthless by its "owners", has been managed with an out-of-sight, out-of-mind philosophy.

The reason for this distinction is based in the laws and regulations which govern how these two categories are stored, transported, and handled and in existing public perceptions. Although the term hazardous waste is much more widely known, and the effects of its poor management are very evident, hazardous materials are actually more commonly in close proximity to the general public. Hazardous materials are more frequently transported on freeways and public roads and are more frequently stored in close proximity to residential areas. An excellent example is the local service station which stores thousands of gallons of highly volatile, flammable and carcinogenic material, gasoline, adjacent to or near residential development with virtually no concern on the part of the public. Hazardous waste, on the other hand, is in the spotlight of public concern. The Love Canal, Stringfellow Acid Pits, Times Beach, and other incidents have dramatically publicized the result of mismanaging hazardous waste and have left the public with a not altogether undeserved distrust of industry and government policies on hazardous waste.

The ban on the disposal of liquid and untreated waste has created a need for a new generation of facilities capable of treating hazardous waste to levels allowed for disposal and for disposal facilities that meet today's standards. After waste minimization, these facilities are the key to the new management philosophy, and without them, waste management would remain in the dark ages. Unfortunately, public distrust has resulted in the "Not-In-My-Back-Yard" (NIMBY) syndrome, making it more difficult to site the facilities necessary to implement these procedures.

### **Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority**

Through its membership in the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority (SCHWMA), the County of Riverside has agreed to work on a regional level to solve problems involving hazardous waste. SCHWMA was formed through a joint powers agreement between Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, and Riverside Counties and the Cities of Los Angeles and San Diego. Working within the concept of "fair share", each SCHWMA county has agreed to take responsibility for the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in an amount that is at least equal to the amount generated within that county. This responsibility can be met by siting hazardous waste management facilities (transfer, treatment and/or repository) capable of processing an amount of waste equal to or larger than the