Propane and Butane Gas Cylinders Disposal

Purpose
This procedure specifies the safe and proper disposal of non-rechargeable and non-returnable propane and butane gas cylinders.

Scope
This procedure applies only to the disposal of non-rechargeable and non-returnable propane and butane cylinders. This procedure does not apply to other gas cylinders and lecture bottles.

Background
Compressed gas cylinders are not accepted at local landfills. As a result many of the university’s compressed gas cylinders designated for disposal (empty or full) remain in the buildings thereby creating fire or explosion hazards.

Gas cylinders should be disposed of or recycled in a safe manner. When purchasing propane or butane gas cylinders, generators must ensure that the cylinders are refillable or can be returned to the supplier.

Procedure
Propane/Butane cylinders
1. All propane and butane cylinders must first be approved for disposal by the Environmental Services Facility (ESF) via the online Chemical Waste Inventory System.
2. Ensure that the generator information is filled in completely.
3. Approved processed requests are sent to the generator via e-mail.
4. Package cylinders in strong cardboard boxes.
5. The weight of each box must not exceed 10 kg.
6. Once the box is full, tape the box closed.
7. Tape an envelope with the approved form on the box. Write the generator’s name, department, and telephone number on the envelope. On top of each box write the gas cylinder hazard class code number.
8. Place the boxes in the building’s designated area for pick-up by ESF.
9. Do not vent propane or butane cylinders through the fume hood.

NOTE: BBQ propane cans and tanks of any size cannot be disposed of via ESF. It is the responsibility of generators and their departments to return them to the suppliers from which they were purchased.