



# POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY LIABILITIES AT HOSPITALS AND SIMILAR CLINICAL INSTITUTIONS

The most common environmental and regulatory exposures encountered at hospitals and similar clinical institutions include:

- ◆ No coordinated or formal waste management program.
- ◆ Ignorance regarding waste management regulations.
- ◆ Illegal disposal practices for hazardous and radionuclide wastes.
- ◆ Incomplete incineration of harmful biological materials.
- ◆ Incineration on-site of plastic bags, Petri plates and tubing.
- ◆ No incinerator stack emission testing.
- ◆ Acidic laboratory, X-ray and maintenance chemicals dumped into drains causing corrosion of on-site and off-site sewer pipes.
- ◆ No control of pathogenic, carcinogenic or infectious organisms in wastewater discharges which pose hazards to sewer workers.
- ◆ Lack of dikes for hazardous wastes.
- ◆ Absence of coordinated spill control plans.
- ◆ Poor asbestos disposal practices.
- ◆ Poor underground tank management programs.
- ◆ Lack of secondary containment for hazardous materials and wastes.
- ◆ Improper maintenance of laboratory hood filters and PCB-containing electrical equipment.
- ◆ Incomplete records regarding former on-site activities.

This is not an exhaustive list of environmental exposures. It represents the most common environmental exposures for this industry. Phillip Smith will work with you to identify environmental exposures that are unique to your business to help you reduce risk.

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