

Hazardous waste may be disposed of July 30 and Aug. 6

The Lakes Region Planning Commission will host hazardous household waste collection on July 30 and Aug. 6.

On Saturday, July 30, collection sites will be operated from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Belmont, Franklin, Gilford and Meredith.

Collection sites will be operated from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Aug. 6 in Bristol, Laconia, Moultonborough and Ossipee.

Residents and residential property owners in the 24 participating communities may bring up to 10 gallons or 50 pounds of household hazardous products in for safe disposal. The participating communities for the collection consist of: Alexandria, Andover, Belmont, Bridgewater, Bristol, Center Harbor, Effingham, Franklin, Freedom, Gilford, Gilmanton, Hebron, Hill, Holderness, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, New Hampton, Northfield, Ossipee, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Tamworth, and Tilton. Information on collection sites and accepted materials can be found at www.lakesrpc.org/services_hhw.asp (http://www.lakesrpc.org/services_hhw.asp) or by calling 279-8171. Donations for this event are encouraged and can be made at the webpage above.

There are many toxic materials which exist right inside many Lakes Region homes. These toxic materials are known as "hazardous wastes" which are substances that poison or contaminate the environment, and threaten the health of those in the local community. They may be flammable, corrosive, or reactive, and should be disposed of properly so as not to harm people or damage the region's soil and water resources. If a product label says "danger," "warning," "poison" or "caution," the product contains ingredients that are flammable, poisonous, will burn the skin and eyes, or react violently with other chemicals. These items, if disposed of improperly, are a very real threat to the health of the community, and the natural ecosystem. Municipal treatment plants and leach fields are incapable of processing these chemicals. In other words, these chemicals can remain in the water supply.

The Lakes Region Planning Commission understands this problem, and in 1986 pioneered a regional program to prevent injury and environmental pollution from household hazardous waste. Every year since then, the LRPC has coordinated annual household hazardous waste collections for communities throughout the region interested in participating in the shared collection program saving towns both time and additional cost. This program employs a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved waste transporter which collects and safely disposes of household hazardous waste.