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From: Meredith Brown <racer@lanl.gov>  
Subject: Blue Alert: Rad Waste Container Torn

**Title: Radioactive Waste Secondary Container Torn**

Identifier: Formal Lessons Learned Report, 1998-KO-SNL-0003

Date: December 18, 1998

**Lessons Learned Statement:** Always visually inspect every chemical, radiation, or material container for damage before allowing it to be transported, particularly waste containers.

**Discussion of Activities:** On July 29, 1997, a waste bag containing radioactive waste was moved from a storage cabinet to the pick up area. When being picked up, a tear was noticed in the outer containment bag. The process was immediately stopped and Radiation Protection called to survey the bag. No contamination was found and the bag was repackaged. As a result of quick action on the part of Waste Handling and the staff in the facility to stop work until corrective action was taken, there was no danger to employees or contractors.

**Analysis:** The direct cause of the incident was not verifying by visual inspection that the waste container was sound before moving. Positive results came from this incident because proper procedure was followed and no personnel were endangered.

**Recommended Actions:** Always visually inspect every container for damage before allowing it to be transported.

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Name of Authorized Derivative Classifier: John Lewis

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Priority Descriptor: Blue/Lessons Learned

DOE Functional Category(s): Operations, Waste Management, Radiological Protection

User-Defined Functional Category: Waste Container, Radiation Protection, Waste Handling

Key Words: Radioactive, Waste, Container

Information in this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As a means of measuring the effectiveness of the SNL Lessons Learned Program, please inform Merri Lewis at (505) 844-6523 of any action taken within your area, as a response to this report, or of any technical inaccuracies you have found. Your feedback is important and appreciated.