



sanitation

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Sanitation Commissioner Reminds New Yorkers to Safely Dispose of Harmful Products after Small Oxygen Tank Causes Explosion in Truck

Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia is reminding New Yorkers to never place harmful products with regular garbage collection after a small oxygen tank caused a small explosion in the hopper of a collection truck on Friday morning in Manhattan's Upper West Side. Two Sanitation Workers were slightly injured.

"Improper disposal of materials like small oxygen tanks, automotive materials, flammables and electronics is not only illegal, they can contaminate our waterways and seriously harm sanitation workers and landfill employees," Commissioner Garcia said. "Hazardous materials have the potential to cause a violent chemical reaction and ignite. They should be safely disposed and never be placed in the garbage."

The incident on Friday morning, which occurred around 7:40 am in the vicinity of 90th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in, caused minor injuries to two Sanitation Workers who were taken to a hospital. Upon investigation, an improperly discarded small oxygen cylinder was found inside the collection truck's hopper by DSNY's Environmental Police Unit.

DSNY offers multiple ways to properly and safely dispose harmful materials. We have [special waste drop-off sites](#) in all five boroughs that are open throughout the year, and we host [SAFE Disposal events](#) in the spring where residents can bring unwanted electronics and hazardous materials. The DSNY website also has a [Pharmaceutical/Sharps Drop-Off site map](#) with locations where residents can bring their unwanted medicines and syringes. Medical devices like small oxygen tanks can also be exchanged when purchasing a new one.

For a [full list of items that require safe disposal](#) or for any questions, residents should visit the [DSNY website](#), or call 311.

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) promotes a healthy environment through the efficient management of solid waste and the development of environmentally sound long-range planning for handling refuse, including recyclables. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 695 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.

