City of Jacksonville
Office of Inspector General

Facility Inspection: Household Hazardous Waste

Case# 2026-0000036

May 21, 2026

Jacksonville.gov - Inspector General 904-255-5800 InspectorGeneral@coj.net

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jacksonville's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site is located at 2675 Commonwealth Avenue. Duval County residents may access the site Monday through Friday 8 am – 5pm to dispose of household waste products not collected through regular trash pickup.

The facility is classified as Small Quantity Generator (SQG) of hazardous waste materials. SQGs generate between100 kg and 1,000 kg of non-acute hazardous waste per month and contain less than1 kg of acute hazardous waste. SQGs can store waste on-site for up to 180 days (or 270 days if shipping over 200 miles), with a maximum on-site accumulation of 6,000 kg.

HHW is inspected by Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) annually.

The City of Jacksonville Office of Inspector General (OIG) completed its first inspection of the facility on April 22, 2026, and found the facility and staff to be operating in compliance with HHW Standard Operating Procedures and the City's Municipal Code.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

According to HHW Standard Operating Procedures and City of Jacksonville Municipal Code Section 380.209, Duval County residents are permitted to drop off the following items for disposal:

- Chemicals & cleaners: Pesticides, pool chemicals, drain cleaners, paint, varnish, thinners, strippers, solvents, adhesives, photographic chemicals. (27 gallons of paint, oil, and other chemicals. Once those limits are reached, the facility charges $1.25 for each additional gallon.)
- Oils & fuels: Antifreeze, motor oil, used oil filters, gas, propane, kerosene, diesel fuel/tanks.
- Batteries: Car batteries, lead-acid, alkaline, button cell, lithium-ion, nickel-cadmium, nickel-metal hydride, nickel-zinc.
- Electronics (E-waste): TVs, monitors, computers, printers, phones, small appliances, power tools, health/beauty devices (limit: 3 CRTs/televisions per customer)
- Other: Fireworks, flares, fire extinguishers, gunpowder, ammunition, thermometers/thermostats, aerosol cans, CFLs, fluorescents, fertilizers, kerosene, nail polish, nail polish remover, hair spray, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, sealers, wood stains, smoke detectors, mercury-containing items.

HHW does not accept medical waste (sharps, pills, liquid medications, etc.). Citizens are provided with a pamphlet detailing where/how to dispose of those items.

The site is inspected by Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) annually.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

As part of the inspection process, the OIG reviewed the following documents:

- Employee Training Documents (including required 40 hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, HAZWOPER, course)
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Emergency Contingency Plans
- Receipt of JFRD 2025 Inspection
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2025 Inspection
- HHW Weekly Self-Inspections

FACILITY LAYOUT, PROTOCOLS, & PHOTOS

The OIG conducted an unannounced inspection of the HHW facility during regular business hours on April 22, 2026. Photographs were taken (Exhibit 1), and the following checklist of safety and compliance measures was completed.

Inspection Item(s)	OIG Inspection Findings
Signage and public messaging at the facility emphasize that HHW must be dropped off at this location and not placed curbside.	Compliant (See Exhibit 1)
Items are properly segregated by hazard class (flammables, corrosives, oxidizers, reactives)	Compliant (See Exhibit 1)
Containers are compatible with contents, in good condition (no rust or leaks), labeled with waste description/class, accumulation start dates, and 'Hazardous Waste' label.	Compliant (Exhibit 1)
Items are stored in leak-proof containers, properly dated, stored off-ground with secondary containment (e.g., spill pallets) in place where required.	Compliant (Exhibit 1)
No prohibited discharges, leaks, or spills to storm drains, surface water, or groundwater.	Compliant (See Exhibit 1)
Facility staff are actively monitoring volume and enforcing limits on-site.	Compliant

Facility does not accept hazardous waste through curbside collection; curbside is limited to garbage/recycling only as per Municipal Code §380.209	Compliant
Identify any fugitive emissions, dust, or off-site odors.	Compliant (None Detected)
A written contingency plan is available	Compliant
Spill kits are readily available and functional.	Compliant
Inspect availability/use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, goggles, aprons) and emergency response gear.	Compliant

INTERVIEWS

The Solid Waste Superintendent was interviewed by the OIG on 4/28/2026. A Recovery & Recycling Technician was also present.

The Superintendent described intake, organizational, and safety procedures as follows:

The most recent inspection was completed by FL DEP in December 2025. Some minor issues that were noted and have been corrected. He explained that the only concern not addressed was the appearance that the site was not completing regular pickups. He explained that vendors need a purchase order (PO) from the city for pickups to be completed, but the city will only complete a PO when container at or nearing capacity. He explained they must wait until they have enough waste to "get more bang for the city's buck". It just happened that the containers were full during the last inspection and the vendor hadn't processed the PO yet.

The Recovery & Recycling Technician and other HHW employees inspect the facility at the beginning and end of their shifts. They check storage lockers for any spills or leaks and note the level of waste in each. If no leak or spill is found and no containers are ready for a PO to be issued for vendor pick up, no paperwork is completed during daily inspections. If a spill or leak is located, employees will contact the DEP and request the department dispatch a crew to assess and clean it. COJ employees do not clean chemical spills/leaks.

When residents drop items off, they drive their personal vehicles onsite, and HHW employees take an inventory of the items. Residents are asked to provide their zip code and are issued a receipt. (The Superintendent noted that employees ask citizens to exit their

vehicles and observe the items being removed to ensure no allegations are made against employees for property damage or spillage that may have occurred during transit.)

Items are separated upon intake and stored in separate lockers depending upon their chemical makeup.

Propane tanks are stored on the east side of the facility and away from ammunition materials and chemicals.

Meridian Waste and Waste Pro will often bring appliances and electronic waste (televisions, computers, etc.) to the site after collecting them during residential garbage pickup. These companies will not accept paint, oil, household chemicals, etc. curbside.

The Superintendent provided copies of employee training records, previous inspection reports, emergency contingency plans, and current HHW SOPs to the OIG within a timely manner.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The OIG reviewed the recommendations made at the conclusion of the Florida Department of Environmental Protections 2025 inspection and found that the facility did improve the conditions of the property as directed. The facility is currently operating according to SOP and Municipal Code. No spills, leaks, drips, or odors were detected onsite. Storage lockers were clearly labeled and no containers needed to be emptied. Employee training is up to date. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is being used and is well stocked. All stormwater drains were clear.

The facility is slated to be remodeled within the 2026-2027 fiscal budget. Several trees were marked for removal on the south side of the property to create more space. Employees are looking forward to the expansion and equipment upgrades.

During the onsite interview, the employees were asked if they had any concerns about policies, procedures, or suggestions for improving program efficiency. They explained that the intake trailer currently sitting at the entrance of the facility blocks a portion of the security camera's view and staff are unable to see people dropping items off at the front gate when the facility is closed. As a part of the renovations, the trailer will be relocated, and the view will no longer be obstructed.

The OIG appreciates the Household Hazardous Waste employees' cooperation throughout this inspection process. Their dedication to adhering to City Municipal Code, department SOP, and other safety and environmental standards is commendable.

Case 2026-0000036 HHW Inspection Exhibit 1

Photos 1-8: Facility Entrance & Signage













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Photos 9-16: Aerosols, Corrosives, and Household Chemical Storage









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Photos 17-18: Dry Pesticide Storage





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Photos 19-20: Oils





Photo 21: Vaping Cartridges



Photo 22: Electronic Batteries



Photo 23-24: Vehicle Batteries





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Photo 25: Paint



Photo 26: Light Bulbs



Photos 27-30: Electronic Waste









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Photo 31: Propane



Photos 32-34: Ammunition (<50 caliber only and located near the office trailer)







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Photos 35-37: Stormwater Drains





