



## Toxic Waste

**What aspect(s) of the Transformational Model this activity helps illustrate:** Systems Thinking, Mental Models, Creative Tension, Team Learning, Spiritual and Relational Vitality

**Materials needed:** Rope to form circle at least 15 feet in diameter, rope to form circle at least 2 feet in diameter, ropes 8-10 ft. long attached to bungee circle, two tin cans, bag of beans, [instruction sheet](#)

**Minimum number of participants required:** at least 6 to 8

**Time needed:** 30 minutes for game and 30 minutes for debriefing

### Instructions:

1. Set up the ropes to form a larger outer circle with a small circle in the middle. One tin can with the loose beans should be set in the center circle. The empty can and tool (ropes and bungee) are outside the circle.
2. Ask who is willing to read the instructions aloud. Provide [instructions](#). Keep time and note when anyone breaks the "barrier" at which point, you should determine what ability they have lost as a result.
3. If the group does not complete the task successfully in the time allotted, ask if they wish to continue, try again, etc.
4. Debrief.

### Debriefing suggestions:

1. Begin by asking the group to report on what occurred. Encourage them to stick to a strict retelling of events rather than interpretation.
2. After a recounting of the activity, ask the group to describe parallels between this activity and working as a group.

**Source:** Shared Vision Incorporated, 2001





## **Toxic Waste Cleanup**

You have been contracted by the Acme Toxic Waste Cleanup Corporation to clean up an abandoned site which is highly radioactive.

### **Your Mission:**

Transfer the radioactive waste from the defective container into the new and improved containment canister and retrieve the canister with the waste from the contaminated area without spilling any of the contents.

### **Requirements:**

The defective container must stay in the inner circle, thereby reducing the chance of greater contamination.

The pouring of the waste into the new and improved canister also needs to take place within the inner circle, once again reducing the possibility of further contamination.

The Acme Toxic Waste Cleanup Tool is powered by the collective electromagnetic fields a team produces. Therefore, every person on the team must hold at least one line of the tool for it to function properly.

It is strongly recommended that no one break the vertical plane formed by the outer safety boundary formed around the cylinder of contamination. If anyone does, extensive studies have shown that the individual will immediately lose the use of that limb that has entered the toxic area. For example, if an arm crosses the plane of the cylinder, the use of that arm will be lost for the duration of the operation. If a head crosses the boundary, the victim will lose sight or voice, and perhaps the ability to think clearly.

The circles of rope merely indicate the location of the toxic area, therefore they cannot be moved. Due to its fragile nature, dragging the canister will damage it.

### **Available Resources:**

- **You have 25 minutes to accomplish this challenging task before meltdown occurs.**
- **The new and improved containment canister**
- **The Acme Toxic Waste Cleanup Tool**
- **Your keen minds, stout hearts, and able bodies**