

Vial 52 may contain any one of a number of hazardous materials, especially biological fluids. Once the vial is positioned within the cavity formed by resilient layer 34, top 14 is positioned inside of body section 18 until the lowermost edge of top 14 rests on ledge 20. As the top 14 is so positioned, detent 24 will be received in channel 38 thus substantially impeding any effort to manually remove top 14.

The resilient layers 34 and 50 substantially cushion vial 52, thus precluding breakage of the vial. In the event that a break does occur, however, moisture impervious liners 32 and 48 substantially preclude escape of liquid from the device. Also, it is desirable to impregnate resilient layers 34 and 50 with a germicidal/pesticidal substance as circumstances dictate which will kill pathogens that escape from the vial into the interior of the device. If a radioactive device is being shipped in the device 10 it may be desirable to utilize an inner liner which is capable of shielding radiation in place of liners 32 and 48.

Once the device 10 reaches its destination, tab 30 is grasped by a technician and pulled outwardly so as to break open the side of enclosure 12 along the length of the latter. This provides sufficient access to the interior of the device so as to allow removal of top 14 and then vial 52. This assures that the device 10 cannot be reused thereby eliminating any possibility of a contaminated device 10 being used to ship hazardous materials and assuring that the device will provide visible evidence of tampering. As aforementioned, a shock indicator may be placed in cutaway section 46 so as to provide an immediate warning signal of a possible damage container within the enclosure in the event that the device 10 has been subjected to forces of a magnitude that are likely to cause breakage. It is, of course, to be understood that it is within the scope of the invention to form a unitary assembly where a plurality of the devices 10 would be joined together so as to present a single device which could ship a large number of containers of hazardous material in a single package.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that this invention is one well adapted to attain all the ends and objects hereinabove set forth together with other advantages which are obvious and which are inherent to the structure.

It will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and sub-combinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of the claims.

Since many possible embodiments may be made of the invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described the invention, we claim:

1. A device for transporting a container of hazardous material, said device comprising:
 an enclosure having a bottom and a side wall;
 top means for closing said enclosure;
 means for locking said top means to said side wall so as to impede removal of said top means once the latter is in its closing position on said enclosure;
 resilient means lining the interior of said enclosure and said top and presenting a cavity for receiving the container, said resilient means being impregnated with a germicidal agent;
 said side wall presenting a line of weakness extending along the side wall; and

means coupled with said side wall in close proximity to said line of weakness and extending outwardly from said side wall and presenting a tab which can be pulled by a user of said device to open said enclosure.

2. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said side-wall presents a second line of weakness parallel to and substantially coextensive in length with the first mentioned line of weakness and wherein said tab presenting means extends from said sidewall at a location between the first and second lines of weakness.

3. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein is included a moisture impervious liner on the side of said vertical means which is adjacent said enclosure and said top means.

4. A method of packaging for transport a hazardous material which is held in a container, said method comprising the steps of:

enclosing said container within an enclosure device characterized by a line of weakness along one side and tab means projecting from said side in close proximity to said line of weakness;

cushioning said container with a resilient liner disposed between the container and the enclosure device;

impregnating said resilient liner with a germicidal/pesticidal agent; and

placing the top on said enclosure in a manner so as to substantially impede its removal; and

whereby when said container is to be removed from said device said tab means may be pulled thereby destroying said device while opening it to accommodate removal of said container.

5. A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein said enclosure is characterized by a second line of weakness parallel to and substantially coextensive in length with the first mentioned line of weakness and wherein said tab means projects from said side at a location between said first and second lines of weakness.

6. A method as set forth in claim 5, wherein is included a moisture impervious liner on the side of said resilient liner which is adjacent said enclosure.

7. A protective device for packaging a container holding hazardous materials such as those containing viable microorganisms, said device comprising:

an enclosure having a bottom and a side wall which presents a top section of the enclosure having a size to receive and hold said container therein;

a top for said enclosure, said top being separate from the enclosure and having a size and shape to be inserted into said top section to close the enclosure and enclose the container therein;

means for locking said top in said top section to impede removal of the top therefrom;

a line of weakness on said side wall; and

means for providing a tab on the side wall in proximity of said line of weakness, said tab being accessible for pulling to break the side wall along said line of weakness in a manner to effect release of said locking means and allow removal of the top to provide access to the container.

8. A device as set forth in claim 7, wherein said locking means comprises cooperating detent means on said side wall and top.

9. A device as set forth in claim 7, including resilient means lining the interior of said enclosure and presenting a cavity for receiving the container, said resilient means being impregnated with a germicidal agent.

* * * * *