

3.3.2.5 Biohazard and General Waste Disposal



YOUR ORGANIZATION
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

TITLE: Biohazard and General Waste Disposal

SECTION/TOPIC: Pre-Hospital EMS First Response

NUMBER: 3.3.2.5

ISSUE DATE:

REVISED DATE:

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

X

Preparer

X

Approver

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 POLICY REFERENCE

CFR

NFPA

NIMS

2.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses types of hazards and disposal methods, disposal area/facility, segregation of waste products, packaging, labeling, storage, treatment, disposal.

3.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

These definitions are pertinent to this SOP/SOG.

5.0 PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

5.1 Types of hazards and disposal methods:

Medical Waste

EMS operations produce medical waste. Medical waste is defined as any waste generated at an EMS scene. Proper disposal depends on whether such waste is contaminated, liquid, solid, or sharp. The purpose of this procedure is to ensure our members' and the public's safety by identifying hazardous medical waste and how to deal with it in a safe manner.

Medial waste contaminated (or suspected of contamination) with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) shall be treated as infectious as all patients are assumed to be infectious.

Solid contaminated waste shall be placed in a red, biohazardous-labeled plastic bag and disposed of into infectious waste containers located in the transporting ambulance or at the receiving hospital. If this is not possible, the biohazard containers at the fire stations should be used.

Disposable equipment shall be disposed of as contaminated waste after patient use.

Non-contaminated waste such as packaging for such supplies as IVs, 4x4s, and tubing should be disposed of in any available garbage/container.

Liquid waste shall be poured into the sewer system through the toilet. DO NOT pour into station sinks. Body fluids in public areas will be flushed with water into a sewer or storm drain.

Extremely soiled, bloody blankets shall be disposed of as contaminated waste, preferably at the hospital.

Sharp medical waste shall be placed in a Sharp Shuttle or container located at the scene. Recapping of contaminated sharps should only occur if there is no Sharp Shuttle or container available. If recapping is the only option, please use the one handed technique as described below:

- Hold IV with one hand
- Place sheath on the ground or flat surface
- Keep second hand clear and manipulate IV into sheath. Mechanical resheathing devices (Point Lok) may also be used.

5.2 Disposal Area/Facility:

5.3 Segregation of Waste Products:

5.4 Packaging:

5.5 Labeling:

5.6 Storage:

5.7 Treatment:

5.8 Disposal: