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PURPOSE

It is the intent of this procedure is to outline the guidelines for the disposal of contaminated medical waste.

DEFINITIONS

Contaminated Medical Waste: Medical waste such as bandages, dressings, wrappers, exam gloves, sharps, etc. that are **CONTAMINATED** with a patient's blood or body fluid.

Sharps: Means any object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, and broken capillary tubes.

Blood: Means human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.

Personal Protective Equipment: Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee to protect him/her from a hazard.

Approved Medical Waste Container: A container specifically labeled for the containment of contaminated medical waste which contains the Bio-Hazard symbol. Lids shall be kept closed at all times.

Other Potentially Infectious Material: Means the following body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva, and any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood. Any unfixed tissue or organ, other than intact skin, from a human, living or dead.

Non Contaminated Waste: All waste, including medical, other than sharps, not contaminated with blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious material.

Waste Container: An approved container with a tight fitting lid marked with a BIO-Hazard symbol. Used for the disposal of medical waste

DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED MEDICAL WASTE

All contaminated medical waste must be removed from each emergency scene. To accomplish this task engine company officers will insure that company personnel follow

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the guidelines contained herein to decrease the risk of potential exposure or infection to disease.

Each emergency scene generates both contaminated and non contaminated medical waste. **NON CONTAMINATED MEDICAL WASTE SHALL BE COLLECTED AND DISPOSED OF WITH NORMAL TRASH.**

Contaminated or other potentially infectious waste shall be collected in a 2 gallon red plastic bag specifically designated for contaminated waste. Each apparatus company should have an ample supply on hand.

These bags can be brought to the receiving facility, with the patient if collected prior to the transportation, and disposed of with the hospital contaminated medical waste. Waste collected after the departure of the patient shall be brought to the station and deposited into the container provided at each station.

Sharps shall be collected and disposed of into approved sharps containers carried on each apparatus. Needles shall not be recapped. Full sharps containers shall be capped and then deposited into the waste containers.

All personnel handling contaminated medical waste shall wear protective gloves.

All regulated waste shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable City, County health Department, and State Department of Environmental Quality regulations.

Any equipment, samples, waste, etc. shall be examined before they leave the premises to make sure they are not contaminated or leaking. Labels as specified in 1910.1030(g) shall be affixed to this material to warn others handling them.

Contaminated medical waste, which is brought to the fire station, shall not be carried into the living area of the facility. This waste is to be disposed of prior to entry into these areas.

Training

Training for these procedures shall be conducted annually for all Fire Department Operations personnel.



Approved: _____ 6/17/2010
Thomas E. Solberg, Fire Chief Date