

TITLE O P E R A T I O N S M A N U A L	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 09		DEPARTMENT F I R E - R E S C U E
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT AND BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE	SECTION 07	PAGE 1 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE 29 September 2020

I. PURPOSE

To provide direction regarding disposition of contaminated equipment and biohazardous waste in compliance with Federal and State Regulations to mitigate the spread of nosocomial infection.

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all sworn San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The fire chief authorizes the information within this policy.

IV. POLICY

A. Maintaining equipment and facilities in a clean and sanitary condition is an important part of SDFD's commitment to mitigating the spread of infection.

1. Disposable equipment shall be used if available.
2. Biohazardous materials generated on scene during patient care shall be disposed of in the ambulance.
3. Apparatus interior and equipment shall be routinely cleaned and disinfected.
4. Equipment being sent in for repair or maintenance shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to shipping or delivery.
5. Cleansers and disinfectants being used shall be appropriate for the level of decontamination and cleaning necessary.

B. Biohazardous Waste

1. Any discarded item containing regulated body fluids such as liquid blood, body tissue, blood saturated items or other regulated body fluids.
2. Urine, feces, saliva, sputum, nasal secretions, sweat and tears are not regulated biohazardous waste unless they contain fluid blood.
3. Generated biohazardous waste
 - a. All biohazard waste shall be disposed of in a biohazardous waste red bag.
 - b. Biohazardous waste red bags shall be pre-labeled, tied and placed inside the station's biohazardous waste container.
 - c. Do not place biohazardous waste in the trash or outside of the container.
4. Biohazardous waste storage and shipping
 - a. All stations shall be equipped with containers used for biohazardous waste only.
 - b. Crew members shall ensure each biohazard container has a lid which is always securely attached and is labeled on the lid and side with infectious or biohazardous waste.
 - c. Notify medical supply when the biohazardous waste container is half full.

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- d. Containers shall not be overfilled and shall be maintained upright.
- e. Contents of the container shall be documented and emptied at least weekly by the ambulance provider.

C. Sharps or Materials Which Can Puncture Personal Protective Equipment or Skin

- 1. Sharps shall be immediately disposed of in an approved puncture resistive container labeled with the word "Biohazard" along with the international biohazard symbol and with the station's name and address.
- 2. Sharps shall not be left unattended and shall only be placed into a sharps container.
- 3. Materials which can puncture personal protective equipment (PPE) or skin shall be picked up by mechanical means (do not use your hands).
- 4. Sharps containers shall be tightly closed and placed inside the biohazardous waste container.

D. Medical Solid Waste

- 1. Waste generated from medical incidents not categorized as biohazardous waste shall be stored in a tied trash bag and placed inside a locked dumpster or in a secured receptacle preventing access to the public.
- 2. No tracking document is required.

E. Contaminated Non-Disposable Equipment or Goods

- 1. Personnel shall utilize the necessary level of PPE when cleaning or disinfecting equipment.
- 2. If unable to clean contaminated equipment, place in a biohazardous red bag and exchange at medical supply.