

**OKALOOSA COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

Title:	Handling, Storage and Disposal of Bio-Medical Waste
Policy:	440.00
Purpose:	To assure that procedures and requirements for handling, storage and disposal of Bio-Medical Waste are met. (Section 381.80, F.S. and Chapters 64J-1, F.A.C.)

Policy:

Bio-Medical waste shall include any solid or liquid waste which may present a threat of infection to humans, including non-liquid tissue, body parts, blood, blood products, and body fluids which contain human disease-causing agents; and discarded sharps. The following are also included:

- (a) Used, absorbent materials saturated with blood, blood products, body fluids, or excretions or secretions contaminated with visible blood; and absorbent materials saturated with blood or blood products that have dried.
- (b) Non-absorbent, disposable devices that have been contaminated with blood, body fluids or, secretions or excretions visibly contaminated with blood, but have not been treated by an approved method.
- (c) Isolation Waste emanating from the care and/or treatment of a patient on any type of isolation or precaution.
- (d) Sharps waste includes any potentially infectious article that may cause puncture of cuts. Such will include, but is not limited to, needles, scalpel blades, broken glass, and syringes.

I. Bio-Medical Waste: Handling

- a. All Bio-Medical Waste shall be “red-bagged” as soon as possible and in such a way as to ensure the safety of the EMS crew, logistics personnel and the subsequent biohazardous waste receiver. Personnel will utilize personal protective wear when securing Bio-Medical Waste. Red bags will be sealed to prevent leakage and dated. Seal sharps containers with the attached lid and place in a red Bio-Medical Waste bag which will be sealed and dated. Assure that no sharps are protruding.
 - i. Red Bio-Medical Waste bags will be stocked on the ambulance. Remove all Bio-Medical Waste as soon as possible from one shift to another. Properly secured Bio-Medical waste may be left at a hospital, following their procedures as necessary.
 - ii. Sharps Containers will be stocked on the ambulance. Crews will mark the new sharps container with a date 30 days from that day. Sharps containers will be replaced when full or by the marked date, whichever comes first.

II. Storage of Bio-Medical Waste

- a. Bio-Medical Waste will be stored for a period not to exceed 30 days. Storage areas located at the Essex Logistics office (714 Essex Road, Fort Walton Beach) and EMS Station #3 (296 Brackin Street, Crestview) have restricted access, are located away from pedestrian traffic and maintained in a sanitary condition. These facilities are marked with the 6 inch in diameter international biological hazard symbol as described in paragraph 64E-16.004(2) (b), F.A.C., and shall be secured against vandalism and unauthorized entry.

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- b. The EMS Logistics van is equipped with a Bio-Medical Waste container with lid, marked Bio-Hazard on the outside and lined with a red Bio-Medical Waste plastic bag. Logistics will pick up Bio-Medical Waste at the EMS Station #3 Bio-Medical Waste Shed and at any EMS station requesting pickup. In addition, logistics will pick up Bio-Medical Waste which is properly contained from any Fire Department in Okaloosa County requesting pick up.

III. Disposal of Bio-Medical Waste

- a. Okaloosa County EMS will contract for the monthly removal of all Bio-Medical Waste. A copy of the contract will be kept on file at the OCEMS Logistics Office and OCEMS Main Office.

Accountability and Compliance:

- 1. It is the responsibility of the OCEMS crews to assure all Bio-Medical Waste is removed from the vehicle as soon as possible before the end of their shift.
- 2. It is the responsibility of the OCEMS crews to assure all Sharps container are changed before overfilling or the 30 days, whichever comes first.
- 3. It is the responsibility of OCEMS Logistics to assure the Bio-Medical Waste sheds are secured, cleaned and free of infestation.
- 4. It is the responsibility of OCEMS Logistics to assure the Bio-Medical Waste is removed before the 30 day mark.

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