



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

	<h1>GENERAL ORDER</h1> <h2>320.06</h2>	
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Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
Operations	10/26/1990	1/1/1996	N/A

SUBJECT: Infectious Waste Disposal

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

POLICY:

The disposal of contaminated/infectious medical waste shall be in concert with OSHA 29CFR 1910.1030. The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) personnel are responsible for proper disposal of medical waste as outlined in the following procedure

1 MATERIALS IDENTIFIED AS CONTAMINATED/INFECTIOUS WASTE;

1.1 Any item contaminated by body fluids (i.e. blood, urine, feces, vomitus, wound drainage . . .) such as:

- 1.1.1 Dressing and bandaging materials.
- 1.1.2 Bed linens (disposable).
- 1.1.3 Bed linens that cannot be cleansed by acceptable practice.
- 1.1.4 Discarded patient clothes. (see section 2.1.1)
- 1.1.5 Disposable Personal Protective Equipment/Clothing (PPE).

1.2 Blood Samples

- 1.2.1 Blood sampling test tubes.

1.3 Sharps

- 1.3.1 Used syringes.
- 1.3.2 Used needles.

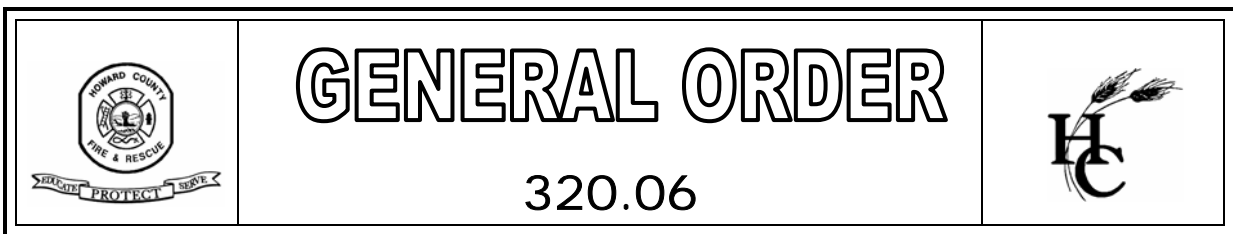
2 MATERIALS TO BE SECURED AND PROPERLY DISPOSED.

2.1 Any item, as identified in section 1.0 that becomes contaminated as a result of a DFRS emergency operation or training session.

2.1.1 Discarded patient clothing shall be **red bagged** and taken to the receiving hospital and kept with patient.

2.1.1.1 At incidents considered crime scenes or under investigation by police agencies discarded patient clothing will be left in the custody of police

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officials if requested.

2.2 Any item, as identified in section 1.0, used and/or generated by the DFRS at the scene of a residential, commercial or roadside medical emergency.

2.2.1 The last on scene DFRS unit at a medical emergency shall assure that all items identified as Contaminated/Infectious waste have been secured. This shall include items such as bandaging and dressing wrappers, disposable gloves and other items that the public may view as Contaminated/Infectious wastes.

3 SECURING CONTAMINATED/INFECTIOUS WASTE MATERIALS

3.1 Contaminated items to be place in approved "**Sharps**" container.

- 3.1.1 IV needle and catheter.
- 3.1.2 IM/SQ Needles and barrels.
- 3.1.3 Luer adapters & Multiple sample needles.
- 3.1.4 Blood sampling tubes.
- 3.1.5 Pre-loaded syringe.

3.2 Contaminated items to be placed in approved "**Red Plastic Bags**".

- 3.2.1 All Contaminated/Infectious medical waste generated inside ambulance/medic unit, identified in Section 1.0.
- 3.2.2 All Contaminated/Infectious waste material generated at the scene of a residential, commercial or roadside medical emergency, not identified in Section 1.0.

3.3 All Contaminated/Infectious waste generated in a medical training session shall be appropriately secured as identified in Section 1.0 and 3.0.

4 PACKAGING CONTAMINATED/INFECTIOUS WASTE MATERIALS.

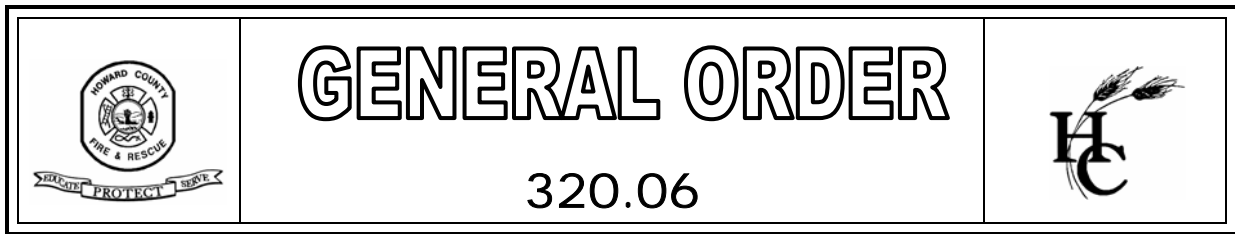
4.1 All full "**Red Plastic Bags**" containing Contaminated/Infectious materials shall be sealed and double bagged if there is a potential for a leakage problem.

4.2 All full "**Sharps Containers**" must be properly sealed.

5 DROP OFF PROCEDURE FOR CONTAMINATED/INFECTIOUS WASTE.

5.1 The sealed "**Red Plastic Bags**" shall be placed inside in the waste disposal area as designated by the Emergency Department of the receiving hospital (Soiled Utility

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Room).

5.2 Only Contaminated/Infectious waste properly packaged as outlined in Section 4.0, shall be dropped off at the receiving hospital.

5.2.1 General waste (non contaminated items) **shall not** be placed in the "**Red Plastic Bags**". A separate waste container shall be carried on each EMS unit and used for non-contaminated waste (i.e dressing wrappers, administration set boxes . . .). General waste shall be disposed of at the fire station.

5.2.2 Properly sealed "**Sharps Containers**" shall be placed in the designated area of the "Soiled Utility Room" at the receiving hospital. "**Sharps Containers**" shall be disposed of and replaced when three quarters (3/4) full.

6 SUPPLIES

6.1 All standard materials needed to properly store and dispose of all medical waste shall be procured from a County approved vendor.

6.2 Standard Supplies

6.2.1 Sharps container for ambulance/medic unit.

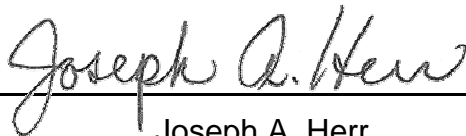
6.2.2 Sharps container for IV/Drug box.

6.2.3 Red plastic bags for ambulance medical waste trash can.

6.3 "**Red Plastic Bags**" shall only be used for the disposal of Contaminated/Infectious medical waste.

6.4 There will be **no replacement/exchange** for any of these items by the receiving hospital.

Approved:



Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief