



Jason Catrambone, Fire Chief

**PURPOSE:**

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

**OBJECTIVE:**

The objective 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.

**SCOPE:**

All Personnel

**BIOHAZARD WASTE DISPOSAL**

EMS operations produce medical waste. Medical waste is defined as any waste generated at an EMS scene or when treating a patient at the fire station. Proper disposal depends on whether such waste is contaminated, liquid, solid, or sharp.

Medical waste contaminated (or suspected of contamination) with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) shall be treated as infectious.

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

Fire personnel shall notify an EMS crew member and/or supervisor of the biohazard bag.

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, sealed in a biohazard bag, preferably at the hospital.

Sharp medical waste shall be placed in a Sharp Shuttle or container located at the scene.

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

*Standard Operating Guidelines*

**5200.015**

**Biohazard Waste**

Implemented: 04/14/22

Revised:

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### **SEGREGATION OF WASTE PRODUCTS**

Biohazard waste receptacles shall be placed in an area segregated from high traffic areas of the fire station. These areas shall include the following in order of preference.

- Designated decontamination room
- Designated PPE laundry or utility area
- Area designated best by department health & safety officer

### **PACKAGING**

Each biohazard waste receptacle shall have a red biohazard bag liner for collecting waste.

### **LABELING**

Each biohazard waste receptacle shall be red in color and have the designated biohazard labeling.

### **DISPOSAL**

If biohazard waste is generated and disposed of in a fire station biohazard waste receptacle, the bag shall be removed, sealed, and transported by the Battalion Chief to the EMS supervisor.

- **NOTE:** If possible, any biohazard waste generated should be placed in the transport unit in the appropriate biohazard bag however, if a situation doesn't allow for the waste to be placed in the unit or with the EMS supervisor the stations biohazard waste receptacle will be utilized. The biohazard waste should be removed and properly disposed of within 24 hours.