

Medical or Bio-Hazardous Waste

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Effective: 07-24-13

RED-BAG BIO-HAZARD AND SHARPS CONTAINER WASTE

Red hazardous waste containers (“sharps containers”) must be properly sealed in order for the disposal process to work safely. Once reaching capacity, sharps containers may be brought directly to Materials Management for disposal. Alternately, sharps containers may be left, properly sealed, at the satellite stations near the D Tank rack where Materials Management staff will remove them during their nightly rounds. Red bio-hazard bags are also removed by Materials Management staff during their Evening shift rounds. A contracted vendor removes red bag and sharps containers weekly from Materials Management. Only hazardous waste from Boston EMS should be left at Material Management; the Boston Police and Fire Departments have separate contracts in place and are responsible for the disposal of their red hazardous waste containers.

REQUEST FOR NEEDLE RETRIEVAL / BIOW

1. Boston EMS occasionally receives requests to retrieve hypodermic needles or other medical or bio-hazardous waste improperly disposed of in the public domain. These requests typically come via the Mayor’s 24-Hour constituent hotline, but may also be received via the 9-1-1 system or other City agencies.
 - 1.1. Boston EMS will intercede when the medical or bio-hazardous waste is related to an EMS incident (e.g. bloody gloves or bandages).
 - 1.2. Boston EMS will intercede if the medical or bio-hazardous waste is not related to an EMS incident, but the amount of material is relatively limited and can be quickly retrieved. Incidents involving medical or bio-hazardous waste that exceeds the capacity of a one-gallon red hazardous waste container shall be referred to the Boston Fire Department for mitigation.
2. Between the hours of 07:30-17:00 on weekdays, the Project Manager of the BPHC “AHOPE” (Addicts Health Opportunity Prevention Education) program may be contacted to check on the availability of the needle exchange van to retrieve the discarded waste. Contact Sarah Mackin at **617 534-3967** or smackin@bphc.org.
 - 2.1. If the needle exchange van is not available to retrieve the item(s), a Tango unit or Division Supervisor should be dispatched.
 - 2.2. At the discretion of the Dispatch Operations Supervisor, an ambulance may be sent to handle the disposal of the waste, especially in instances involving a small

amount of waste (such as one or two syringes) or when the Division Supervisor may be delayed.