

Model Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Procedures

Florida State Working Group HazMat Operations

Rev. April 4, 2019.

Biomedical or Biological Waste Emergency

Title: Biomedical or Biological Waste Emergency

Purpose:

To make sure procedures are in place to ensure a maximum degree of safety for the safe and effective response to a biomedical or biological waste emergency. It shall establish minimum requirements to control and mitigate an incident involving a biomedical or biological waste. This procedure is not intended to address WMD biological agents.

Policy:

This procedure will apply to all incidents where the Hazardous Materials Response Team responds and determines or suspects that biomedical or biological waste emergency are involved. It is the intent of this policy to comply with the requirements of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.10.120 and EPA 40 CFR Part 311 for emergency response to actual or suspected discharges of hazardous materials.

Definitions:

Illegal Disposal – it is unlawful for any biomedical or hazardous waste generator, transporter, or facility owner or operator to dispose of a hazardous waste, biomedical waste, or biological waste to cause, authorize, create, suffer, or allow an imminent hazard to occur or continue (ss 402.727).

Biomedical waste – means any solid waste or liquid waste which may present a threat of infection to humans. The term includes, but is not limited to, non-liquid human tissue and body parts; laboratory and veterinary waste which contain human-disease-causing agents; discarded disposable sharps; human blood, and human blood products and body fluids; and other materials which in the opinion of the Department of Health represent a significant risk of infection to persons outside the generating facility. Biomedical waste includes; but is not limited to, biomedical waste, diseased or deal animals, and other wastes capable of transmitting pathogens to humans or animals. The term does not include human remains that are disposed of by persons licensed under chapter 470.

Applicability:

This policy shall be utilized to guide selection, use of the appropriate equipment, and procedures in handling biomedical or a biological waste emergency. The Hazardous Materials Group Supervisor is responsible for making sure the Incident Commander is aware of the hazards involved and the Hazardous Materials Response Team follow these guidelines in assuring the safety of the Hazardous Materials Response Team members, operations personnel, and the general public.

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Procedures:

- 1) Isolate the area and set up control zones if not already established.
- 2) All cases of illegal disposal are a police matter and they should be dispatched.
- 3) The local Public Health Unit or State Department of Health through the State Warning Point should be contacted to respond. They can help the determination as to the amount of biological waste and who will dispose of it. If a large amount of material is present the Department of Environmental Protection can assist with making arrangements for contractor to dispose of the bio-waste.
- 4) Provide the following information to the local Public Health Unit;
 - a) Location: to include address, be specific (i.e. in bag, in box, in dumpster, etc.).
 - b) Approximate amount, example: 1 bag, 2 bags, large bag, small bag, etc.
 - c) The identity of spiller or owner of biomedical waste if known.
- 5) If material has entered storm or sewer systems, notify public utilities, public health and environmental agencies.
- 6) Set up decontamination procedures. Use of freshly mixed 10% or stronger bleach/water solution unless advised otherwise by CDC or Health Department.
- 7) Clean-up of biomedical waste – this would be confined to the following types of incidents (generally these types of incidents are not handled by a Haz Mat Team):
 - a) Transportation accidents involving DOT labeled/placarded etiological agents.
 - b) Any situation where a Haz Mat Team is requested to handle blood or other body fluids that would expose the public or personnel to them. Example: roadway, sidewalk, ground, etc.
 - i) Use of universal precautions is usually adequate unless the material is DOT placarded as Division 6.2 or labeled as an infectious substance.
 - (1) This would require a level 'A' or 'B' PPE.
 - ii) Clean up procedure if spilled material:
 - (1) Pour bleach (undiluted) directly onto biomedical waste. Keep material contained.

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- (2) Place enough absorbent material on the bleach and bio-waste to make it a dry solid.
 - (3) If the biological waste contains sharps (syringes, needles, scalpels, etc.), these must be removed from the other material and placed in an appropriate sharps container.
 - (4) Scoop or sweep up the dry bio-waste and place into a 'red' bio-waste plastic bag and seal bag.
 - (5) Decontaminate any tools used with a bleach solution and rinse with water.
 - (6) Dispose of bio-waste at local hospital or with bio-waste contractor.
- 8) Transportation container emergencies – incidents that involve materials labeled, placarded, or marked as biohazards or medical-waste. This type of incident is treated as a hazardous materials incident.
- a) Locate upwind/uphill/upstream and recon site from a distance.
 - b) Identify product/substance – use manifest, shipping papers, type of container packaging and container markings.
 - a) Report incident to State Warning Point
 - b) Make sure scene is secure
 - i) Wear appropriate PPE
 - c) Identify anyone that was in contact with product
 - d) Notify:
 - i) Public Health Unit
 - ii) CDC
 - iii) CHEMTREC
 - e) Contain material – if leaking
 - i) cover with sheet or other porous material
 - ii) pour bleach over sheet and keep damp with solution. Can use garden type sprayer with bleach solution to spray immediate surrounding area.
 - iii) place dike, sock boom, or spill pillows around area to contain run-off
 - iv) Wait for disposal instructions from one of the above contacts