

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

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Handling, Storage and Disposal of Bio-Medical Waste</b>
<b>Policy:</b>	<b>440.00</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>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.)</b>

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**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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