

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 72
VERSION: 3**

SUBJECT/TITLE: **DISPOSAL OF BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE RECEIVED FROM THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONTROL PROGRAM/EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT (HMCP/ERU)**

POLICY: Biohazardous waste delivered to Olive View-UCLA Medical Center by HMCP/ERU will be received in accordance with the guidelines outlined below.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) accepts responsibility for removal and disposal of small quantities of illegally discarded biohazardous waste that is picked up within Los Angeles County by the Hazardous Materials Control Program/Emergency Response Unit (HMCP/ERU). DHS Hospitals serve as disposal sites for this waste.

To minimize disposal costs, the HMCP/ERU will deliver illegally disposed biohazardous waste to the closest designated DHS hospital for disposal. The amount of biohazardous waste to be disposed of at DHS facilities will be limited to 50 lbs. or less. Each DHS hospital will be reimbursed for disposal costs when the responsible party is located and billed for these costs.

PURPOSE: To delineate the responsibility of Olive View-UCLA Medical Center employees to secure the safe handling of biohazardous wastes received from HMCP/ERU.

DEPARTMENTS: All.

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: All personnel involved in the handling and disposal of biohazardous waste delivered by HMCP/ERU shall abide by the following guidelines:

A. Disposal Limits

1. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center shall only accept biohazardous waste from HMCP/ERU. All other governmental and private agencies or individuals should be referred to HMCP/ERU at (323) 890-4045 or, after hours, (323) 881-2455 and ask for Health HazMat Division.
2. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center shall only accept up to 50 lbs. of biohazardous waste per incident from HMCP/ERU.
3. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center shall accept biohazardous waste 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

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B. Operating Procedures

1. When the HMCP/ERU encounters an illegal disposal of biohazardous waste in Los Angeles County, where no responsible party is located and the biohazardous waste is below 50 lbs. in quantity, the biohazardous waste shall be transported to the nearest DHS facility.
2. The HMCP/ERU Responder shall place the biohazardous waste in double lined red bags, with biohazard waste printed on the side of the bag, to properly identify the biohazardous waste before delivery to a DHS facility. Each red bag will have a numbered metal tag affixed to the outside of the bag by HMCP/ERU.
3. Biohazard waste bags shall be transported in HMCP/ERU vehicles only.
4. The Emergency Responder shall contact the Environmental Services Supervisor on duty (818) 364-4110 or page him/her. The Environmental Services Supervisor shall direct the Emergency Responder to the biohazard waste holding area near the hospital's loading dock.
5. The Environmental Service Supervisor shall check each bag for metal tags and log each bag.
6. The Emergency Responder shall place any biohazardous sharps waste into a reusable sharps container in the holding area.
7. The Emergency Responder shall give a copy of the delivery receipt for the biohazardous waste to the Environmental Services Supervisor.
8. After all of the above requirements are satisfied, the biohazardous waste shall be treated and disposed of properly.
9. Olive View-UCLA Medical Center shall provide HMCP with the names and phone numbers of the Director of Environmental Services and OVMC's Biohazard Waste Coordinator.

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References: Joint Commission Environment of Care Standards ValleyCare Policy No. 149, "Events Involving Potential Claims Against the County" ValleyCare Policy No. 805, "Employee Injuries/Illnesses"	
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