

### 3.1.20

#### **EMS Aspects: Education Activities, Office of Academic Affairs, Wastes**

#### **Aspect Ranking: 6**

Educational activities are conducted within University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H) at the Medical School Building, the Dental Branch, the School of Nursing and School of Public Health. Each building specializes in a specific area of learning for the students by providing them with the necessary tools and educational specimens.

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#### **Education Waste Management**

##### **Task/Activity Description:**

Medical wastes are a specific type of hazardous waste that is subject to 25 TAC 1.132 which states the definition, treatment and disposition of special waste from health care-related facilities.

Solid medical wastes from student educational laboratories are collected in cardboard biological waste boxes, closed, transported by the Environmental Protection Program to a secure storage area, and shipped offsite through an approved contractor for treatment and disposal. Individual boxes may be designated for incineration or autoclaving according to the waste label affixed.

Sharps from education labs are collected in approved sharps containers. Full sharps containers must be securely closed, then placed into a biological waste box for offsite disposal.

##### **Key Control Points:**

- Biological wastes are stored in a secured area
- Educational waste pickups are scheduled by the Environmental Protection Program
- Educational waste disposal records and invoices are maintained by the Environmental Protection Program

##### **Related Forms, Records, SOPs:**

- Institutional Biosafety Manual
- Texas Administrative Code (25 TAC 1.132)

**Personnel Responsible:**

Education Directors

- Ensure biological waste boxes are closed and stored in a secure area

Safety Specialists, EPP

- Provide containers and bags when needed
- Maintain waste disposal supplies in the waste rooms
- File manifest and disposal records

Safety Manager, EPP

- Review waste volumes collected
- Report waste management activities to Biological Safety Committee and Executive Safety Council
- Submit monthly invoice for payment
- Schedule pickups with biological waste contractor

Director, EHS

- Provide program management review
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**Training – Environmental Management Systems and Environmental Awareness**

**Task/Activity Description:**

For the communication of environmental programs and environmental management systems, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) provides initial training to first year students and educational staff. This training introduces and reinforces environmental management system principles, blood borne pathogens, waste management practices specific to educational laboratory operations, and environmental concerns and compliance requirements for biological waste management. The training is led by EH&S staff and presented at the beginning of the school year for the students.

**Key Control Points:**

- Communicate environmental compliance requirements, environmental management concepts, and emergency procedures to personnel who generate biological waste and infectious agents.

**Related Forms, Records, SOPs:**

- Basic Clinical and Laboratory Safety Training

**Personnel Responsible:**

Education Directors

- Ensure students attend training

Manager/Safety Specialists, EPP

- Develop training materials and submit updates to for web page
- Schedule training time, place, and date (annually)
- Present training materials to lab staff
- Document training by obtaining a sign in sheet with all participants listed, deliver sign in sheet to EH&S administrative assistant who will enter names of personnel trained into a training data base

Director, EHS

- Provide management review, liaison with Education Directors if necessary
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**Routine Management of Infectious Agents and Biological Waste to meet regulations:**

**TCEQ /Medical Waste Management (30 TAC 330.2001)**

The Environmental Protection Program utilizes the UTHSC-H Institutional Biological Safety Committee for review and approval of experimental protocols utilizing infectious materials. The review process includes waste disposal and management procedures.

**Emergency Response for Medical Wastes**

Incidents reported to EHS are entered into an Incident database. The database is built into the EMS to enter in incidents as they occur, allowing for tracking, documentation, follow-up, and corrective action. Employees handling bloodborne pathogens are trained annually at an appropriate level on emergency response procedures. The universally accepted biological hazard warning symbol is utilized throughout the institution to notify workers about the presence of infectious agents.