

(Officer) (Paramedic)
A _____
B _____
C _____

PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE
EMS MEMORANDUM #15-019
May 11, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: All Stations
From: EMS Office
Subject: Community Sharps Disposal – Quick Drill

Citizens no longer have the option of bringing sharps to a Multnomah County clinic for disposal. Fire stations will continue to accept a one-time container of less than one gallon. *Group homes, residential care facilities and other commercial or business customers should contact a medical waste management company, their garbage hauler or Metro's recycling hotline at 503-234-3000 for sharps disposal options.*

We will be sending out Metro brochures that can be given to citizens that will explain Metro's disposal program, facility locations and other alternatives.

Members receiving the sharps container should obtain the name and phone number of the person leaving the sharps and email the information to the EMS office.

See attached Quick Drill and Metro Brochure

Quick Drill
Medical Sharps Disposal
Drill code: 90-05.59

Household sharps

Household sharps are medical instruments such as needles, acupuncture needles, IV tubing with needles, scalpel blades, lancets, glass tubes and syringes that can cause injury, spread infection or pollute the environment when used or disposed of improperly.

Throwing sharps in the trash is illegal

You cannot dispose of syringes and other medical sharps in the garbage because it's illegal in Oregon. The law also requires that medical sharps be disposed of in approved sharps containers.

Safe sharps disposal

Oregon law requires that regulated medical waste be stored and disposed of in red, rigid, leak-proof, puncture-resistant containers clearly marked with the biohazard symbol and sealed for safety. They're available at many local pharmacies, medical supply stores and Metro's two household hazardous waste facilities — Metro Central in northwest Portland or Metro South in Oregon City.

Metro's container exchange program

Metro's container exchange program is only for residents and households, not businesses. *Group homes, residential care facilities and other commercial or business customers should contact a medical waste management company, their garbage hauler or Metro's recycling hotline at 503-234-3000 for sharps disposal options.* Metro area residents can take their sharps containers to the household hazardous waste facility at Metro Central in northwest Portland or Metro South in Oregon City between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Metro Central household hazardous waste facility

Phone: 503-234-3000

Address: 6161 NW 61st St., Portland

Metro South household hazardous waste facility

Phone: 503-234-3000

Address: 2001 Washington St., Oregon City

If you use sharps at home, follow these easy steps

Metro's program is only for residents and households. If you use sharps at home, follow these three easy steps.

1. Enroll at one of Metro's household hazardous waste facilities for just \$5 per container, and get a new sharps container at no cost each time you submit a full one for proper disposal.
2. Bring your sharps container to one of Metro's hazardous waste facilities for proper disposal. A hazardous waste disposal fee of \$5 for up to 35 gallons also applies.
3. Receive a new empty container.

Neighborhood collection events

Free household hazardous waste collection events take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday in different communities across the Portland metropolitan area from March through November.

There is no charge to bring your hazardous household garbage to Metro's community events. A small portion of your monthly garbage bill goes to help pay for these services.

- *sharps (medical syringes)*

Prepare materials properly

- *no containers larger than five gallons; 35-gallon limit per load*
- *bring sharps in an approved sharps container*

Follow link listed below for 2015 collection dates in your neighborhood:

<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/neighborhood-collection-events/2015-neighborhood-collection-event>

Additional information

Some garbage and recycling collection companies in the Portland metropolitan area provide sharps disposal programs for their customers. Call your hauler to learn whether it provides this service.

Metro Recycling Information

503-234-3000

www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling
Information and referral on household hazardous waste options, including sharps disposal, in the Portland metropolitan area.

Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal

800-643-1643

www.safeneedledisposal.org
Information about disposal laws and links to sharps disposal programs within the U.S. and Canada.

Critical Care BioRecovery LLC

503-698-4415

www.criticalcarebiorecovery.com/medicalwaste
Supply, pickup and disposal of sharps containers for a fee.

Sharps Compliance Inc.

800-772-5657

www.sharpsinc.com
Supply and disposal of sharps containers by mail for a fee.

Stericycle

866-783-7422

www.stericycle.com
Supply and disposal of sharps containers by mail for a fee. Pickup for commercial accounts in Multnomah County only.

Waste Management Inc./WM Healthcare Solutions

866-931-6321

www.medwaste.wm.com
Supply and disposal of sharps containers by mail for a fee.

Sharps container exchange program

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Address: 2001 Washington St., Oregon City

Metro | *Making a great place*

Whether your roots in the region run generations deep or you moved to Oregon last week, you have your own reasons for loving this place – and Metro wants to keep it that way. Help shape the future of the greater Portland region and discover tools, services and places that make life better today.

www.oregonmetro.gov

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Safe disposal of household medical sharps

Sharps container exchange program



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Sharps can harm people, pets and wildlife when discarded improperly

Placing hypodermic needles and other sharps in the trash, for example, exposes garbage haulers and other disposal workers to potential injury.

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The Portland metro area offers various options for safe sharps disposal

Some pharmacies and garbage haulers provide sharps containers and disposal service for a fee. Find several resources listed on the back of this brochure, or call Metro's recycling hotline at 503-234-3000 for more information.

Metro also provides an affordable container exchange program for area residents.

Metro's container exchange program

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3 Receive a new empty container.

