

## *Just the Facts...*

### *Bloodborne Pathogens – Regulated Medical Waste (RMW)*

#### **Safety precautions for handling RMW are -**

- Place RMW in containers or bags that are color-coded (red bags or red containers) or labeled with the fluorescent orange or orange-red biohazard symbol.
- Place sharps in sealable, puncture-resistant, leakproof containers. Replace sharps containers when they are 3/4 full.
- Place blood-soaked, dripping, or blood-caked disposable PPE and waste materials in leakproof plastic bags or impervious containers.
- Close and seal containers and bags prior to removal or replacement to prevent spillage or protrusion of contents during handling, transport, or storage.
- Place containers of RMW in secondary bags or containers if contamination of outside surfaces occurs or if there is potential for leakage.
- Avoid excessive or rough handling to prevent rupture of containers and bags. Never attempt to compact RMW.
- Comply with all policies for RMW as implemented by the organization.

#### **Organizations must -**

- Develop an RMW program or policy.
- Oversee that personnel handle RMW according to the program or policy.
- For transport, place RMW in rigid leakproof, puncture-resistant containers that meet U.S. Department of Transportation and United Nations standards for construction and performance.
- Follow local, state, and Federal regulations for disposal of RMW. Generally, RMW should be incinerated or decontaminated. Treated RMW may be disposed in a sanitary landfill if permitted by local law.

For further information see USACHPPM TG 190 and MEDCOM Regulation 40-35.