

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 25 January 2019

Response Date: 31 January 2019

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked ASPR TRACIE for assistance in identifying best practices related to Ebola medical waste management, especially for hospitals that do not have an autoclave or incinerator. She is particularly interested in how other facilities move waste from the red zone to the green zone and what vendors others are using for Category A waste removal.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team directed the requestor to the [VHF/Ebola](#) Topic Collection for initial information. Other Topic Collections, including [Emergency Operations Plans/Emergency Management Program](#), were also reviewed for relevant resources. A list of comprehensively developed Topic Collections can be found here: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/topic-collection>.

Section I below includes ASPR TRACIE-developed resources that include related information. Section II identifies specific documents referenced in ASPR TRACIE-developed resources that are most relevant to the request.

I. ASPR TRACIE-Developed Resources

[EMS Infectious Disease Playbook](#): This playbook synthesizes multiple sources of information in a single planning document addressing the full spectrum of infectious agents to create a concise reference resource for emergency medical services (EMS) agencies developing their service policies. Waste management is one of the considerations discussed throughout the document. While focused on the pre-hospital setting, the playbook may help inform coordination and planning for the arrival of potentially infectious patients via EMS and procedures for handling waste generated during transport.

[VHF/Ebola Topic Collection](#): In response to the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak, ASPR TRACIE developed this Topic Collection to assist healthcare and public health systems in planning and response. One of the categories included in the Topic Collection is Decontamination and Waste Management.

Frontline Hospital Playbook: Special Pathogens: Attached is ASPR TRACIE's draft Frontline Hospital Playbook: Special Pathogens, scheduled for release in 2019. Information on Category A waste and spill management begins on page 3-25.

II. Specific Waste Management Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). [Ebola-Associated Waste Management](#).

The information provided in this webpage is intended to help healthcare providers and facility staff safely handle, transport, and dispose of waste associated with the care of patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus disease.

Domestic Resilience Group. (2017). [Interim – Planning Guidance for the Handling of Solid Waste Contaminated with a Category A Infectious Substance](#).

This federal inter-agency guidance approved by the Domestic Resilience Group of the National Security Council is for the safe handling of Category A contaminated solid waste. Information on off-site inactivation of waste begins on page 13.

Lowe, J., Gibbs, S., Schwedhelm, S. et al. (2014). [Nebraska Biocontainment Unit Perspective on Disposal of Ebola Medical Waste](#). (Abstract only.) American Journal of Infection Control. 42(12):1256-1257.

The authors describe Ebola medical waste processing requirements and their impact on U.S. hospitals.

University of Toledo Medical Center. (2015). [University of Toledo Medical Center Emergency Operations Plan](#).

This is an emergency operations plan for an academic medical center that may be referenced and adapted for use by other facilities. [Annex L](#) includes Category A infectious waste disposal guidance beginning on page 44.

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and Environmental Protection Agency. (2016). [Safe Handling, Treatment, Transport and Disposal of Ebola-Contaminated Waste](#).

This fact sheet provides a step-by-step summary of actions workers should take from the point Ebola-contaminated waste is generated through final disposal.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. (2014). [Procedural Guidance on the Proper Packaging of Ebola Suspected Waste](#).

This document includes general information on transporting Ebola-contaminated waste and links to related Department of Transportation guidance.