

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor: [REDACTED]

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): March 7, 2017

Response Date: March 17, 2017

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

[REDACTED] asked for resources, tips, and/or information available regarding sewage and waste disposal during disasters. This is one of the items under the CMS EP Rule regarding provision of subsistence needs for staff and residents.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team researched relevant resources specific to sewage and waste disposal during emergencies. Section I below provides general guidance/ resources. Section II are guidance specific for disaster types such as Ebola.

Please note that we did not include resources related to hazardous waste management. Resources related to hazardous waste can be found in the [Pre-Hospital Victim Decontamination Topic Collection](#), [Hospital Victim Decontamination Topic Collection](#), and [Responder Safety and Health Topic Collection](#).

Additionally, please review the [ASPR TRACIE Long Term Care Topic Collection](#) for other possible relevant resources for your facility.

CMS-specific Information:

CMS is currently developing the interpretive guidelines and the State Operations Manual that will address specific regulatory expectations. This is expected to be completed by late Spring 2017. ASPR TRACIE has developed and collected a number of resources that we encourage you to use and believe will help facilitate compliance, including the resources provided here. However, this does not substitute review of the final rule text and interpretive guidelines. If you have specific questions about your facility's compliance please review the interpretive guidelines when they are developed, contact your state's survey agency, or the CMS Survey and Certification Group (SCG) at the following email address: SCGEmergencyPrep@cms.hhs.gov.

CMS and ASPR TRACIE are partnering to provide technical assistance, and share resources and promising practices to help affected providers and suppliers start or update the documents mandated by the new Emergency Preparedness rule. Additional key resources include:

- The ASPR TRACIE dedicated CMS Rule page: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/cmsrule>
- The entire CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-21404>
- The CMS Emergency Preparedness Survey and Certification Page: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Emergency-Prep-Rule.html>

- CMS has [developed a Quick Glance Table of the rule requirements by provider type](#), to highlight key points of the new Emergency Preparedness rule. **NOTE:** This table is not meant to be an exhaustive list of requirements nor should it serve as a substitute for the regulatory text.
- ASPR TRACIE developed a [CMS Emergency Preparedness \(EP\) Rule Resources at Your Fingertips Document](#). Within this document are links to key resources:
 - CMS' recently developed [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) documents](#) that synthesizes answers to commonly asked inquiries about the CMS EP Rule.
 - The FAQs, in combination with the CMS [at-a-glance chart](#) and [Provider and Supplier Type Definitions Fact Sheet](#), can help planners identify and address planning gaps and facilitate compliance with the regulations.
 - Interested in learning more about your local healthcare coalition? [This chart](#) can help you identify the preparedness office of your state public health agency. Remember: the release of the CMS EP Rule provides healthcare coalitions a tremendous opportunity to strengthen relationships and leverage a broader group of personnel and resources to provide for the medical needs of the whole community during a disaster.
 - If you missed the Medicare Learning Network National Call on the EP Rule, you can access the PowerPoint [slides, transcript, and audio recording here](#).

I. General Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and FEMA. (n.d.). [Wastewater](#).

This PowerPoint presentation provides an overview of wastewater systems, injury prevention, waste handling tips, clean up, and sampling.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (n.d.). [Disaster Recovery Guide](#).

This guidance provides tips for flood clean up, septic systems, debris clean up, disease prevention, sewage breaks and backups, and waste disposal.

Florida Healthcare Association. (n.d.). [Emergency Management Guide for Nursing Homes](#).

This guide provides advice/recommendations for nursing homes during disasters. Appendix W (page 121) includes tips for waste management and starting on page 153 has a few tips on sewage/waste management during a biological event. Additionally, there are a few sewage management tips for different disasters such as earthquakes, extended power outages, etc.

Lillis, K. (2015). [Handling Medical Waste in an Era of Emerging Pathogens: Advice from Expert Facilities](#). Infection Control Today.

This article provides insights from interviews done with the Department of Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health at University of Nebraska

Medical Center and Emory Environmental Health and Safety Office. Though the scenario is Ebola specific, it can be generalized for other emerging pathogens.

The Johns Hopkins and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (n.d.). [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies](#). Public Health Guide for Emergencies.

As an excerpt of the *Public Health Guide for Emergencies* document, this chapter discusses diseases related to water, sanitation, and hygiene; control measures for improving environmental conditions; and addressing long term needs of the community.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Emergency Preparedness Section. (2011). [Disaster Waste Management Guidelines](#).

This document provides guidance for waste management during the immediate response phase, early recovery phase, and later recovery phases. They also provide key considerations for health and safety and tools/checklists for implementing the guidance.

II. Scenario Specific 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.

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

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

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2014). [Cleaning and Decontamination of Ebola on Surfaces: Guidance for Workers and Employers in Non-Healthcare/Non-Laboratory Setting](#).

This factsheet provides guidance on Ebola cleaning and decontamination procedures for those who work in non-healthcare and non-laboratory settings. Links to information on disinfectants, waste disposal, and personal protective equipment are provided throughout the document.

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2005). [Flood Cleanup](#).

This two-page factsheet provides information about cleaning up after a flood, when flooding can cause the disruption of water purification and sewage disposal systems, overflowing of toxic waste sites.

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.