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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 15, 2010

TO: All State-Registered Trauma Scene Waste Management Practitioners

FROM: CDPH, Medical Waste Management Program

SUBJECT: PROHIBITED USE OF MAIL-BACK SERVICE FOR TRAUMA SCENE WASTE MANAGEMENT

The California Department of Public Health, Medical Waste Management Program (Department) has received inquiries from Trauma Scene Waste (TSW) management practitioners regarding the possible use of mail-back containers for the handling and treatment of TSW.

At the present time, the Department has not approved any mail-back system for the handling and treatment of the following medical wastes: red-bagged biohazardous, pharmaceutical, pathology or chemotherapy. The Department's existing mail-back system application process is solely for the approval of systems for sharps waste generated by small and large quantity generators, and households.

TSW management practitioners should abide by Section 118321.5 of the TSW Management Act within the Medical Waste Management Act, Sections 117600 – 118360, California Health and Safety Code

TSW practitioners who have submitted invoices or receipts documenting the purchase of mail-back system containers should immediately make other arrangements (contract for pickup or drop-off of TSW), and supply a copy of such contract or agreement to the Program.

Sincerely,

Alison Dabney, Chief
Medical Waste Management Program