

# Medical Waste Facilities and Flooding

After a flood event, a facility that generates and handles medical waste should conduct damage assessments and implement cleaning protocols to ensure that normal operations can be resumed safely and without compromising the health and safety of your employees and clients.

## Inspection

It is the responsibility of the manager or facility operators to conduct a complete self-inspection of their facility after a flood. The manager or facility operator should contact our Division to conduct an inspection of the facility before resuming operation.

## Indoor Cleanup

1. Wear rubber boots and gloves.
2. Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces.
3. Saturated wall-to-wall carpeting (and the pad) usually cannot be adequately cleaned.
4. Remove and discard porous materials.
5. Disinfect clean-up mops, brooms, and brushes with the bleach solution.

## Outdoor Cleanup

1. Spread powdered lime over contaminated area.
2. Treat hard surfaces with a water/bleach solution.
3. Properly dispose of contaminated materials.
4. Allow a day to air dry.

## Sanitizing

Proper decontamination must be conducted to eliminate safety risk. Decontamination and sanitization should be used on equipment and structural surfaces that are salvageable. Proper sanitization methods include:

- a. Chlorine bleach at a concentration of 100-200 ppm (approximately one tablespoon of bleach in one gallon of potable water); or
- b. Quaternary ammonium at a concentration of 200 ppm.

## Physical Facilities

1. Thoroughly wash all facility interior surfaces (e.g., floors, walls, and ceilings) within the affected facility using potable water with a hot detergent solution. Rinse free of detergents and residues, and treated with a sanitizing solution.
2. Structural components of the building (e.g., walls, piping, ceiling, and HVAC system/ventilation systems) affected by flood waters should be cleaned, repaired, and disinfected, where possible, to prevent mold. Permits from local building departments should also be obtained, if applicable.

*Grounded in Health*

3. Remove and destroy all absorbent materials, such as carpet, drywall, etc. that have been water damaged. If these absorbent materials were contaminated by any biohazardous material/waste, then they should be deemed biohazardous waste and treated/disposed of at a permitted facility as specified in the California Health and Safety Code.
4. Dry all remaining structural components as quickly as possible. Do not close in any new construction until the structural components are dry.

### **Equipment**

1. Make sure to review and implement your Medical Waste Management Plan.
2. Properly discard and remove all medical waste that has been submerged in flood waters or affected by moisture.
3. All medical waste should be transported by a licensed medical waste hauler and disposed of at a permitted facility.
4. Medical waste facilities should also develop a plan for prolonged management and storage of medical waste due to vehicle access issues because of potential road closures.
5. All impacted needles should be placed in a biohazardous sharps container for proper disposal.
6. All impacted pharmaceutical waste should be placed in either a designated pharmaceutical container or hazardous waste container and properly disposed of.
7. The exterior of all impacted biohazardous and pharmaceutical containers should be cleaned and then disinfected with a sanitizer solution.

### **Pest Control**

1. Verify that you do not have a pest infestation.
2. If you are having pest issues, contact your certified pest control company to conduct a sanitary survey and address the infestation.

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