

REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE (RMW)

POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONCERN

Regulated medical waste (RMW) may pose a health risk if not handled properly.

CHARACTERIZATION

RMW consists of several different classes that may include blood and blood products, culture stocks, vaccines, and other items. These items may be generated during FTX's, medical training, i.e., combat life saver, EMT or combat medic. For more detailed description see MEDCOM Reg. 40-35, Management of Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) or TG 177, A Commander's Guide to RMW Management.

HANDLING PROCEDURES

- Step 1** Determine if items may be RMW.
- Step 2** If materials in small quantities meet the RMW guidelines, take to your supporting Battalion Aid Station (BAS) for proper disposal.
- Step 3** For disposal of RMW (e.g. red bags or Sharps containers) contact **BACH Environmental Services ((270) 798-8341)** for a disposal appointment. Ensure the following measures are followed:
1. Red bags must be securely tied and labeled with unit, contents, and date.
 2. Sharps containers must have the lid locked down and be taped closed. Container must be labeled with unit and date.
 3. Must transport to BACH in military vehicle.
 4. All deliveries must be accepted and logged by BACH personnel.

NOTE: Expired pharmaceuticals or other related medical supplies should be disposed of through Brigade Medical Supply. They must not be placed in trash.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Medical training exercises may use moulage (medical makeup) to create realism. Used medical supplies that have not contacted human blood/tissue are not RMW. When disposing of moulage materials, liquids should be discarded in sanitary sewer (sink drain) and other used training aids should be placed in dark plastic bags for disposal in the trash. Sharps used for simulation only (no blood/tissue contact) should additionally be placed inside cardboard boxes prior to disposal. Regular trash disposed in RMW containers is unacceptable.

For more information on RMW or Pharmaceutical disposal contact **BACH Environmental Services at (270) 798-8341 or Environmental Health at (270) 412-3990.**