

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures <b>Emergency Operations</b>		Code: <b>E-XII-20</b>
<b>Blood and Bodily Fluids Clean up</b>		
Chpt: XII EMS	Revised: 7/27/15	Pages: 3

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The mission of SBFD is to protect life, the environment and property. The practice of using hose streams to “wash down” bodily fluids is not environmentally safe and could be considered a hazard to the citizens of Santa Barbara. It is the intention of the City of Santa Barbara to discontinue this practice in order to protect our citizens and the environment from etiological pathogens.

## **II. SCOPE**

SBFD shall interface with Public Works, Streets, Parks, Police, Waterfront and Airport Departments to develop a plan intended to manage blood and bodily fluids (spills) resulting from violent crimes, medical emergencies and traffic accidents. This plan identifies responsibilities and clean up options.

## **III. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The Santa Barbara City Fire Department shall notify the appropriate City department when blood or bodily fluids resulting from a medical emergency are located on City rights-of-way.
- B. The City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department will take responsibility for clean up on City/ public property including streets, right-of-ways and sidewalks.
- C. Any clean up of bio hazards located on private property is the responsibility of the property owner or property manager.
- D. Personnel other than clean up contractors that are employed by the City shall be properly trained and uses appropriate levels of PPE to manage spills and reduce the risk of occupational exposures. Vaccinations and exposure testing shall be made available to all personnel who may be involved in this process.

## **IV. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Small spills and puddles - SBFD employees may clean up small puddles and droplets that measure 6” or less in diameter using a solution of bleach, water, rags and absorbent. Any waste produced from this process shall be disposed of at Cottage Hospital.
- B. Large Spills - Large spills, that are greater than 6” in diameter, will be cleaned up and disposed of by an approved bio-waste clean-up company available on the City list of approved contractors.

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### V. CRIME SCENE WASTE

- A. If a crime has occurred on an individual parcel, the Police Department will advise the responsible party to contact a private cleanup company. The list of City approved cleanup contractors may be provided upon request.
  
- B. If a police incident has occurred on a Public Right-of-Way and involves bio hazard or waste materials, the Police Department will secure the scene and conduct an investigation. The crime scene investigation, if able to proceed prior to the removal of the hazardous or waste materials, shall be conducted with awareness and caution. Once the investigation is concluded, the Fire Department, if requested, will assume control of the site. The Fire Department will ensure final mitigation, coordinating clean up with any approved contracted clean up company.
  1. The Fire Department will respond and evaluate the scene for possible clean up options.
  2. All biohazard materials must be packaged in accordance with Health Department requirements.
    - All items contaminated with blood or body fluids must be placed in a properly labeled (with biohazard symbol), double red biohazard liner (double bagged).
    - NO LIQUIDS or LEAKING PRODUCTS; all liquids must be absorbed.
  3. Biohazards may be taken to Cottage Hospital for disposal by the approved procedures. If Cottage Hospital is unwilling to accept the waste, the Fire Department may have to contact an approved clean up company to accept the waste.
    - Chemical waste, tissue waste, pharmaceutical waste, chemotherapeutic waste or radioactive waste will not be accepted under any circumstances.
  4. If the responsible Fire Department personnel cannot perform the clean up due to threshold quantities described above, they will then contact public works who will hire one of the appropriate City-contracted clean up companies.

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### VI. SEWAGE SPILLS AND LEAKS

- A. If the sewage is in the Public Right-of-Way and can be traced to an Individual Private Parcel (including an RV on that parcel):
1. The Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team will respond and advise the responsible party to call a private cleanup company. The list of city approved cleanup firms may be provided upon request.

If the responsible party fails to promptly contact a private cleanup company, the Fire Department will:

- Contact one of the qualified City approved clean-up contractors to remediate the sewage both on the private property and in the public right-of-way with the responsible party to be billed for the cost of the service; and
  - May contact the City's Public Works Department to assist in the containment of the sewage until the contacted clean up contractor arrives; with the responsible party being billed for cost of service.
  - The Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team may also be notified to assist in the coordination of the clean up and follow up.
- B. If sewage is determined to be derived from a City source and is isolated in the public right-of way only, Public Works personnel will:
- Respond to the incident and clean up the sewage in the public right-of-way
- C. If sewage is determined to be derived from a City source and is in the public right-of way and involves private property, Public Works will:
- Respond to the incident and clean up the sewage in the public right-of-way and around the exterior of building structures on private property; and if sewage is in the interior of a building structure on private property, then Public Works, with the consent of the responsible party of the property, will contact a qualified city approved clean up contractor to clean up the interior sewage situation. Public Works will incur the cost of the clean up contract service.
- D. If it is determined by the Building & Safety of Community Development that a damaging spill was caused by the failure of a private backwater valve, the responsible party may be liable for associated costs and damages.