

**REDWOODS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**Medical Waste Management Plan**

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## **Introduction**

The Redwoods Community College District has developed this Medical Waste Management Plan to provide for the health and safety of staff, students, and visitors to the College. This plan is in accordance with the State of California Medical Waste Management Act, California Health and Safety Code Sections 117600 - 118360.

## **Site Information**

Business Name: Redwoods Community College District  
Eureka Campus

Mailing Address: College of the Redwoods  
7351 Tompkins Hill Road  
Eureka, CA 95501  
707-476-4181

College of the Redwoods, Del Norte  
883 West Washington Boulevard  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
707-465-2300

College of the Redwoods, Mendocino Coast  
1211 Del Mar Drive  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
707-962-2600

Responsible Party: Bill Connors, Environmental Health & Safety Manager  
Eureka Campus, 707-476-4181

## **Facility Description**

The Redwoods Community College District is a public two-year post-secondary educational institution consisting of three campuses owned and operated by the District. The teaching programs include liberal arts education and vocational training. The facilities include one small outpatient clinic on the Eureka campus open only to Eureka Campus students and staff on a part-time basis. The Eureka campus also includes, as part of its Dental Assisting program, a dental clinic open to students and the public on a part-time basis.

## Medical Waste Registration Status

The Del Norte facility is a small-quantity generator, approximately five pounds per month, with no onsite treatment. The Eureka campus is a small quantity-generator, approximately 100 pounds per month, with no onsite treatment. The Mendocino Coast facility is a small-quantity generator, approximately five pounds per month, with no onsite treatment.

### Characterization and Management Practices of Medical Waste

#### Eureka Campus:

**Health Center:** The Health Center's medical waste stream consists of sharps which are used for administering vaccinations, TB tests, or obtaining blood samples. Blood samples are sent off site for testing. Occasionally, a bad blood draw will generate small amounts of fluid blood in capillary tubes or syringes. These items are disposed of with sharps in a sharps container.

Biohazardous wastes generated by the Health Center include vaccines which are outdated or no longer useful and test kits which are used or outdated. Vials of outdated or unused vaccine are disposed of with sharps. Test kits may go into sharps containers or red bags.

Non-medical wastes generated in the Health Center, such as disposables containing non-fluid blood (dressing, gauze, etc.), are disposed of with medical waste in red bags.

**Nursing:** The Nursing Programs generate needles and syringes which have been used to practice giving injections and venipunctures to training manikins. The Nursing Programs generate sharps waste consisting of lancets used to obtain blood samples (one drop) when learning the use of glucometers.

All sharps are disposed of in sharps containers. Non-medical waste, such as disposables, are disposed of as medical waste in red bags.

**Dental Assisting:** The medical waste stream consists of needles, syringes, and burs. The program also generates disposables such as cotton rolls containing saliva.

Needles, syringes, and burs are disposed of in sharps containers. Disposables are collected in red bags.

**Campus Security:** All Campus Security personnel are trained EMTs and as such occasionally generate non-fluid blood-stained disposables from wounds. The materials are disposed of as medical waste in red bags.

Athletic Trainer: The Athletic Trainer occasionally generates non-fluid blood stained disposables from wounds. These materials are disposed of as medical waste in red bags.

**Del Norte Campus:**

Nursing: Characterization and management practices at this campus are the same as the Eureka campus.

**Mendocino Coast Campus:**

There are no academic programs that generate medical waste at this location. The only source of medical waste is that generated from first aid response to accidental wounds.

**Medical Waste Containment, Packaging and Labeling**

Medical waste containment, packaging, and labeling methods are the same on all three District campuses. All sharps wastes are placed in sharps containers with tight-fitting lids. Sharps containers are labeled with the words “Biohazardous Waste” or the international biohazard symbol and the word “Biohazard.”

Red biohazard bags are placed in rigid, leak-resistant containers with self-closing lids. Medical waste other than sharps are placed in the red bags which protect the containers from contamination and make handling safer. The red biohazard bags are labeled with the words “Biohazardous Waste” or the international biohazard symbol and the word “Biohazard.” Biohazard bags which are full and ready for disposal are tied to prevent leakage or expulsion of contents during handling.

**Medical Waste Collection and Storage**

At the Eureka campus waste which is ready for disposal is picked up from the generating department on request by custodial staff. Red-bagged and/or sharps waste is transferred from the generator’s container to a rigid transport container and is brought to the Maintenance area where it is stored for weekly pickup by a registered medical waste hauler.

At the Del Norte and Mendocino Coast facilities, sharps and/or medical waste is transported to the Eureka campus for consolidation and pickup by our medical waste hauler. Transportation of medical waste from the Del Norte and Mendocino Coast facilities to the Eureka campus meet the conditions as specified in California Health and Safety Code, Sections 118030, 118035, and 118040. District employees authorized by the Department of Health Services, Medical Waste Management Program’s Limited Quantity Hauling Exemption are Bill Connors and Joe Porras.

## **Off-Site Treatment and Disposal**

Medical waste is picked up weekly from the Eureka campus by a registered medical waste hauler for transport to an incineration facility.

Name of Hauler: Med Tec  
1239 McCartney Lane  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Treatment Facility: BFI  
9188 Glen Oaks Blvd.  
Sun Valley, CA 91352

## **Emergency Plan**

In the event of a spill or release of medical waste on any of the three campuses of the District, personnel trained in the handling of medical waste and bloodborne pathogens and using Universal Precautions will respond.