**EMS Ambulance set up, transport and cleaning/disinfecting for biohazard infected patients**

Purpose: The EMS guideline is for ambulance set up, transport and cleaning/disinfection for potential or confirmed biohazard infected patient (such as Ebola).

1. Precaution: a. Highly contagious infections (such as Ebola) are capable of causing permanent disability or life threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposed to it.

b. Hazardous waste/trash (infections/isolation wastes) must be handled, packaged, controlled and properly disposed.

c. Personal protective equipment, training, and practice are needed to work in highly contagious infection environments (such as Ebola).

2. Ambulance Set-up for potential or confirmed biohazard infected patient

* + Prep patient compartment with plastic wrap and tape
	+ Seal patient compartment from driver’s compartment
	+ Prep driver’s compartment with plastic wrap and tape
	+ Assemble patient care equipment
		- Oxygen tank with regulator
		- O2 administration supplies (NRB, NC)
		- BVM (Adult, Pedi, Infant)
		- Oral airway/Nasal Airway
		- Portable suction
		- AED
* Prep Cot with body fluid resistant patient containment

3. Ambulance transport of potential or confirmed biohazard infected patient

* Place patient in body fluid resistant patient containment
* Secure to cot utilizing seatbelts
* Notify receiving facility of estimated time of arrival.
* Provide no invasive procedures, utilize BLS skills only.

4. Ambulance Cleaning and Disinfection

* After transferring care, move the ambulance to the pre-assigned cleaning area
* Using approved bleach solution spray patient compartment
* Remove all plastic wrap from ambulance, being sure to remove inside out.
* Place waste plastic in approved biohazard trash
* Wipe all surfaces with approved bleach solution
* Dispose of all waste in approved biohazard trash

5. Dispose of highly contagious hazardous waste/trash

* Place waste into a red biohazard bag tie off bag, disinfect the exterior of the bag and place into a second red bag. Disinfect the exterior of the second red bag.
* Place red bags onto a rigid container with a tight fitting lid. The container must be marked with Identification number and proper shipping name: For Ebola “UN 2814, Infectious substances, affecting humans, all labels shall have black and white lettering. The container must have directional arrow to indicate the correct “Upright” orientation.
* Transport rigid container to a dedicated locked storage area “Do Not Store this waste in an intermediate storage area”
* Disinfect the rigid container and transport cart
* Be aware a suspected or known case may generate as much as 8 (eight) 55-gallon drums per day.
* Always disinfect with an approved US environmental protection agency (EPA) – registered hospital disinfectant.
* Contact your hazardous waste disposal company to remove hazardous waste containers.

Note: “Stericycle” (hazardous waste disposal company used by several hospitals in northwest Minnesota) has DOT special permit to handle highly contagious hazardous wastes. Customer service # 866-338-5120. Stericycle can also be contacted to help with transport and disposal of non-standard waste materials such as mattresses and flooring.