Who to contact for assistance with biowaste picked up by MedSafe

Contact Plant Operations SIS if/when:
- pickup frequency needs to be changed
- you need to schedule a pickup if your pickup frequency status is “once a month” or “upon request”
- extra containers are needed for the next pickup
- waste is not picked up during regularly scheduled pickup day
- any issues related directly to the service that MedSafe provides

3-WORK (343-9675) or 4-WORK (4-9675) on campus number only

Contact Robin Trundy (or VEHS Biosafety) if/when:
- advice/assistance is needed regarding how to collect and dispose of any biohazardous waste
- you have training questions related to regulated medical waste
- there are spills or exposures involving biowaste or biological materials

615-322-2057

Contact your department’s or institute’s designated representative if/when:
- service-related issues arise that are not being effectively addressed through communications with Plant Operations SIS
- supplies of containers/lids/bags are running low in the autoclave rooms or if you need an unusual number of containers (i.e., a freezer cleanout)
- a new lab or pickup location needs to be added to the account or a current pickup location needs to be changed to a different room.

TIP 1: Disposal of tissues and carcasses
Remember that animal or human tissues/organs (other than incidental residues) used in research or teaching should not be disposed of in your lab MedSafe container. Alternatives for disposal include:
- Animal tissues/organs from animals used on animal protocols can be disposed of through the Division of Animal Care (DAC) animal holding facility of origin.
- Unused human tissue obtained through a clinical area should be returned to that clinical source if at all possible.
- Contact Robin Trundy of VEHS Biosafety (322-0927) for coordination of disposal of animal tissues/organs obtained from markets or slaughterhouses. Also contact Robin for assistance with any tissue waste disposal need not specifically addressed here.

TIP 2: Acceptance criteria for incoming MedSafe containers
Your MedSafe driver should be providing you with the rectangular red model of shipping container shown here. Assure that all containers are in good condition before accepting them.
If you see any of the following conditions, retrieve a new container from the autoclave rooms and report the problem to your contact
- Containers with visible cracks
- Containers or lids visibly dirty
- Containers lacking at least one legible biohazard symbol/marking
Remember, shipping lids should fit securely on all sides.
**TIP 3: Disposal of sharps containers**
MedSafe will accept securely closed sharps containers for disposal.
- Smaller, benchtop sharps container can fit inside your MedSafe container. Simply place the permanently closed sharps container inside the lined container like any other biohazardous waste.
- Larger, floor model sharps containers (typically 20 gallons or up) will not fit in the MedSafe containers, but they can be disposed of through this group if they have a DOT marking like shown to the right. To dispose of these containers:
  - Assure the lid is permanently closed and reinforced with packing tape
  - Place the container next to your MedSafe containers that are packed and awaiting pickup.
If you have a large, floor model sharps container for disposal that does NOT have a DOT marking, please contact Robin Trundy for assistance.

**Sharps containers that meet DOT requirements as shipping packagings will have a marking like shown above in the blue box.**

**TIP 4: Liquids in MedSafe containers**
Free-flowing liquids or containers of bulk liquids should not be placed in MedSafe containers. Bulk liquids should be treated with disinfectant and disposed of via the sanitary sewer as outlined in the VEHS Biohazardous Waste Disposal Guide. Lab process containers (i.e., cell culture flasks, sample tubes) that contain residual liquids are acceptable for MedSafe disposal, but containers should be closed before placement in the MedSafe container.

**TIP 5: Posting of contact Information for authorized signers**
MedSafe must collect a signature on the “shipping paper” before they can remove the waste. Only personnel who have successfully completed DOT training for regulated medical waste should be signing, but MedSafe is not required to verify the training status of the signer. To help address this potential noncompliance scenario, VEHS Biosafety has prepared a sign template (example shown at right) that will be completed with your lab’s information and made into a laminated posting. This should be posted in the area where the MedSafe containers are stored. Please make all lab personnel aware of the posting and its relevance. Whenever possible, plan to have a trained, authorized signer available in the lab during the regularly scheduled pickup time. A word version of the completed posting will be provided to each lab for updating as needed. VEHS Biosafety can print and laminate updated signs upon request.