



**FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

## **DISPOSAL OF NEEDLES OR LANCETS (SHARPS)**

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Read the California Waste Management Act Chapter 6.1 of Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code to familiarize yourself with medical waste disposal laws in Los Angeles and the state of California.
2. Go to a Los Angeles County designated distribution site to get a red "Sharps" container and red bio-hazard-labeled bags. Distribution sites are scattered throughout LA County at Goodwill stores and senior citizen centers in West Covina, San Dimas or Sierra Madre. The Public Works Departments in Los Angeles, Redondo Beach and El Segundo and offer medical waste disposal bags and containers. For more information, visit <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/sharps>.
3. Discard blood-soaked wastes such as bandage dressings, swabs or plastic tubes containing bodily fluids in the red bio-hazard bags. Tie the bags shut. Place sharps such as needles or lancets into the sharps container. Keep the lid closed.
4. Drop your sharps containers and bio-hazard bags off at a collection site when they are  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Sites include the City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Centers (click [here](#)), the LA County Department of Public Health or the LA County Sheriff's Department. If elderly or disabled, call 888-CLEANLA (253-2652) to arrange for a mail-back sharps containers under the Mail-back Waste Disposal Program.
5. Go to a distribution site to get a new container and red bio-hazard bag, or request another mail-back container and bag upon disposal of your old ones.

