

## **NEED FOR PROPER HANDLING OF BIO MEDICAL WASTE**

Rapid growth in population has resulted in the establishment of large number of Hospitals and Nursing Homes in our towns. These health care institutions are undoubtedly necessary for keeping up the well being of our community, but bio medical waste generated from such institutions should also be a matter of concern and need to be handled properly without causing undue pressure on the environment. Bio Medical Waste such as imputed parts, microbiological waste, syringes, blades, bandages, used item, IV tubes, liquid waste like blood, body fluids, etc generated from the health care establishments contain millions of harmful microorganisms, and if these waste are handled/ disposed unscientifically, can be responsible for origin of deadly diseases such as AIDS, TB., Cancer, Cholera, Malaria & Skin Diseases. Today, such diseases are rising in our towns at an alarming rate. This is a dangerous development. Hence, to understand the nature of hospital wastes and associated hazardous of storage and proper disposal methods is the need of the hour.

### **ARE THERE ANY RULES?**

Yes! In a move to streamline the disposal of bio medical waste, central government has notified the bio medical waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 with effect from 20.7.1998 according to the Rules.

### **What the Rules Say?**

#### **According to the Rules,**

It shall be the the duty of the every occupier of an instiution generating bio medical waste, to take all steps to ensure that such waste is handled witout any adverse effect to human health and environment.

1. Bio medical waste shall be mixed with any other waste.
2. Bio medical waste shall be segregated at the point of generation.
3. The containers shall be labelled (As per the Rules)
4. The Bio medical waste shall be transported only in such vehicles as may be authorized for the purpose by the authority.
5. No un-treated bio medical waste shall be kept stored beyond a period of 48 hours.
6. On failure to comply with the Rules, the occupier shall be punishable under Section 15 of EP (Act) 1986 which includes.
  - Penal action
  - Imprisonment
  - Fine of rupees one lakh
  - Imprisonment and fine of rupees one lakh
  - Closure of the unit.

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO!! ??**

As an Occupier:

- Segregate the waste at the point of generation.
- Label the container promptly
- Use coloured bins for storing waste.
- Collect, transport, treat and dispose bio medical waste in scientific method.
- Destroy and disinfect the sharp before disposal. Handle waste with protective gear.
- Do not mix the infectious waste with general waste.
- Obtain authorization for your HCE from KSPCB.

## **AS GENERAL PUBLIC**

- Demand the doctor safe and hygienic service both inside and outside the premises.
- Demand for completely sterilized / disinfected Surgical.
- No bio medical waste shall be mixed with any domestic waste or disposed into municipal /corporation bins inside/outside the HCF. In case it happens inform the concerned and demand for the proper disposal or report to the nearest PCB office.
- Prevent rag picker/animals from picking/eating the waste. Don't allow re-sue.
- Don't spill the waste take special precaution for infectious waste.
- Keep toilet clean, use spittoon.
- Help in keeping hospitals clean and minimize waste.