



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County Offers New Home-Generated Sharps Disposal Options Beginning September 1, 2008

New sharps ban at landfills means residents must find new alternatives to putting sharps into trash or recycling cans

Orange County residents have several options available to comply with a new state law taking effect September 1, 2008 that prohibits the disposal of medical sharps waste in household trash.

The change in the California Health and Safety Code makes it illegal to dispose of home-generated sharps waste in household trash or recycling containers, and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container. The code also defines "home-generated sharps waste" as hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medications derived from a household, including a multifamily residence or household.

"There are three primary options for disposing of home generated sharps waste beginning September 1," said Richard Sanchez, Director of Environmental Health for the Orange County Health Care Agency. "Several cities have programs in place to help residents dispose of sharps waste. There are also sharps disposal programs available through some pharmacies and private companies that offer mail-in service. In addition, OC Waste and Recycling will begin accepting home generated sharps waste for free disposal at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers beginning September 2nd."

Household sharps users who already use an approved disposal option other than putting the sharps into the trash do not need to make any changes to comply with the law. Information about city-sponsored programs can be found on city websites or through a resource list available on the Health Care Agency website at http://ohealthinfo.com/regulatory/medwaste_home.htm. The County's Household Hazardous

Waste Collection Centers are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed major holidays and rainy days). The centers are located at:

Anaheim
1071 N. Blue Gum Street
Anaheim, CA 92806

Huntington Beach
17121 Nichols Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Irvine
6411 Oak Canyon
Irvine, CA 92618

San Juan Capistrano
32250 La Pata Avenue
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

More information about the Household Hazardous Waste Collections centers is available on the OC Waste and Recycling website at www.oclandfills.com.

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