
 Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board	SECTION: Land Ambulance
	POLICY TITLE: Disposal of Sharps
ORIGINAL DATE: February, 2008	POLICY AREA: Operations
REVISION DATE: August, 2016	POLICY NO: LA – 4.8
NEXT REVIEW DATE: September, 2019	APPROVED BY: 

Purpose

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) must ensure that vehicles and equipment are maintained in a safe, clean and sanitary manner.

Policy

Paramedics ensure that all biomedical sharps used in the performance of their duties or within their vehicle are disposed of safely in an approved puncture-resistant sharps container. Proper sharps containers are stored in the Symptom Relief (Drug) Kit and in the patient compartment of each ambulance or Emergency Response Vehicle.

Procedure

1. Sharps to be discarded are placed, immediately after use, into the approved puncture-resistant sharps container in either the Symptom Relief Kit or in the patient compartment of the vehicle, whichever is closest to the point of use.
2. Once a sharps container is approximately two-thirds full, it is sealed and removed from use, and placed in the drug cabinet located at each Ambulance Base. The crew removing the sharps container notes that a container has been removed and placed in storage on the remarks section of their daily documentation log. The crew ensures that the container removed is replaced with a new sharps container from the supply cupboard.
3. The Deputy Chief(s) ensures the proper disposal of the containers, when identified on the daily envelope, through the closest hospital or an approved handler of biomedical waste.