



### NEWS RELEASE February 9, 2010

#### Used Needle Disposal Drop-Off Available to Residents

Home-generated sharps such as needles, syringes with needles, and disposable lancets should never be thrown into the trash or a recycling bin. Improper disposal of “sharps” is a health and safety threat to children, home health care providers, sanitation workers, and pets through accidental “stick” injuries.

To properly dispose of home-generated sharps, contain and transport them in an approved purchased container, or use a medical waste mail-back program container approved by the California Department of Public Health ([www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)). Residents can transport and drop off properly contained home-generated hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, and lancets at the Santa Maria Regional Landfill's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 2065 East Main Street. Hours of operation are Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This program is made available to residents for home-generated sharps only. No commercial business disposal will be accepted.

When disposing of sharps, place them in an approved leak-proof, red container constructed of rigid, thick-walled plastic with a biohazards label. Coffee cans, aluminum beverage containers, and plastic milk jugs are NOT appropriate containers and cannot be accepted. Approved sharps containers can be purchased at many local pharmacies and through medical supply companies. They can also be obtained for free at the Santa Barbara County Health Clinic Laboratory located at 2115 South Centerpointe Parkway, Santa Maria. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For your own safety, place sharps in the approved container, point down. Never attempt to bend or break the needle or syringe or put the cap back on the needle. Keep all sharps and disposal containers out of reach of children.

Questions may be directed to the Utilities Department, 925-0951 ext. 7270. For a list of mail-back services approved by the California Department of Public Health click <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/SharpsMailBackList.pdf>

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