

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Office of the Sheriff

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Laurie Smith
Sheriff

MEMORANDUM

TO: Enforcement Staff

FROM: COVID-19 Incident Command Center

SUBJECT: ICC Directive 20-06 (Bio-hazard waste disposal)

DATE: 03/31/2020

Santa Clara County Fire, Centers for Disease Control, and CA Department of Public Health recommend law enforcement agencies that are generating normal waste in the form of gloves and masks (PPE) place these items into regular trash receptacles.

The ICC and 1F47 have consulted with Santa Clara City Hazmat Team and County Fire officials, who have advised us to follow normal protocols when disposing of PPE. If PPE is compromised (see definition below), we will follow normal disposal protocols.

PPE may be handled as normal waste and placed in regular trash receptacles unless the PPE:

- contains bodily fluid from a COVID-19 potentially infected individual
- contains any other bodily fluids
- has had prolonged exposure to a COVID-19 potentially infected individual

When the PPE meets any of the criteria listed above, the PPE should be handled as bio-hazard waste. Normal means of disposal of bio-hazard waste should be utilized, such as on-scene EMS and/or Crime Scene Cleaners.

The above information is in line with the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Cleaning and Waste Management Considerations for Residences - see link to the CDPH page:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EMB/MedicalWaste/COVID-19%20Cleaning%20and%20Waste%20Management%20for%20Residences%20030220.pdf>