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Solid Waste District Safety Notice

Special Announcement Regarding COVID-19

Safeguards and Measures to Reduce Potential Exposures of COVID-19 to Waste, Recycling, and Cleaning/Sanitation Workers

Grand County, Utah - March 16, 2020: The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) identifies certain industries, including workers involved in solid waste and wastewater management services, for which exposure risks to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 may be elevated. This safety notice has been developed in an effort to raise public awareness regarding the higher risks of infectious disease exposures to waste, recycling, and sanitation workers, to provide recommendations and guidance on how to protect, safeguard, and mitigate infectious disease exposures to workers in the waste and sanitation industry, and to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

At this time, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is still learning how COVID-19 spreads. Although the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, the CDC states that “it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.” A preliminary scientific study on COVID-19 indicates that the virus can remain stable on hard surfaces such as plastic and stainless steel for up to 72 hours and on cardboard for up to 24 hours.

The Moab Community Recycle Center (CRC) is CLOSED to the public as a preventative measure until further notice. Members of the public who utilize the CRC for recycling are encouraged to stockpile their recyclables at home until the CRC reopens. Commercial customers can continue to deliver cardboard to the CRC during regular business hours.

The Solid Waste District’s office is also CLOSED to the public. Staff are available to answer questions and conduct regular business by phone at (435) 259-3867.

The Moab Landfill remains OPEN to both residential and commercial customers and the Klondike Landfill remains OPEN to franchised, commercial haulers. Please visit our website at www.swssd1.org for our hours of operations, facility locations, and contact information.

FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS, please consider the following preventative measures to minimize potential infectious disease exposures to waste, recycling, and sanitation workers:

- If you are sick or have been potentially exposed to COVID-19, **double bag your waste prior to placing it in your household receptacle for waste collection and disposal.**
- If you are sick or have been potentially exposed to COVID-19, do not bring your recyclables to the Community Recycle Center until it has been determined that you have not contracted COVID-19.
- **NEVER place needles, sharps, or other similar objects directly in your household trash.** If biomedical waste disposal is not immediately available, place these types of items in a sealed, puncture-proof container prior to disposal (e.g., empty laundry soap container). Don’t forget to label the container to protect your friends and family members.
- Take extra care in consolidating waste from environmental cleaning such as double bagging, using disposable gloves when handling waste, and appropriately sorting waste and recyclables.

FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES, please consider the following preventative measures to minimize potential infectious disease exposures to waste, recycling, and sanitation workers:

- In March 2020, OSHA published *Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19*. Per the guidance document, “employers and workers should use this planning guidance to help identify risk levels in workplace settings and to determine any appropriate control measures to implement.” The guidance document and additional information can be downloaded on OSHA’s website located here: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>.
- For employers and employees, use approved engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent worker exposure to infectious materials.
- Manage solid waste in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. **Double bag waste that may have come into contact with COVID-19 and other infectious disease.**
- Properly manage disposal of infectious waste and follow the applicable rules and regulations for storing, overpacking, and shipping infectious waste for treatment and disposal to the appropriate facilities.
- Take extra care in consolidating waste from environmental cleaning such as double bagging, using disposable gloves when handling waste, and appropriately sorting waste and recyclables.

FOR LOCAL WASTE, RECYCLING, AND CLEANING/SANITATION WORKERS, please consider the following preventative measures to minimize potential infectious disease exposures to yourself, your coworkers, and the general public:

- **Minimize direct contact with potentially contaminated materials and surfaces.**
- **Wear disposable gloves when direct contact with potentially contaminated materials and surfaces is unavoidable. Properly dispose of and replace disposable gloves frequently.**
- **Double bag all solid waste containing potentially contaminated materials.**
- According to the Solid Waste Association of North America’s (SWANA) *Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19)* published on March 6, 2020, “at this time, no special precautions to protect waste workers from COVID-19 are recommended when handling municipal solid waste. Continue to use those precautions already in place to protect workers from the hazards they encounter during their routine job tasks.” This guidance document can be downloaded online here: https://swana.org/docs/default-source/advocacy-documents/guidance_on_coronavirus-2020_03_06.pdf?sfvrsn=fee6b88a_2.
- Follow all employer policies, procedures, and preventative measures and consult with your employer for any additional precautions regarding COVID-19.
- Consult with your employer to obtain PPE as needed in accordance with employer policies, procedures, and preventative measures.

OSHA has standards for bloodborne pathogens (BBP) and personal protective equipment (PPE), 29 CFR 1910.1030 and 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I, respectively, that require employers to protect workers from occupational exposure to infectious agents. The BBP standard applies when workers have occupational exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials and requires the use of universal precautions, including proper handling and disposition, to prevent contact with these materials. Under OSHA’s BBP rule, employers are required to provide annual BBP training to employees with occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Utah Code (19-6-102) defines infectious waste as a “solid waste that contains or may reasonably be expected to contain pathogens...that exposure to the waste by a susceptible host could result in an infectious disease.” Infectious waste requirements in the State of Utah are defined in Utah Administrative Code (UAC) Rule R315-316. UAC R315-316 promulgates general operational requirements for health facilities, storage facilities, and transporters of infectious waste, including storage, containment, transportation, treatment, and disposal requirements. Additional federal, state, and local agencies have rules and regulations relating to infectious materials. Contact your local health department if you have questions related to infectious materials handling requirements.

*The Solid Waste Special Service District #1 (District) was created by the Grand County Council in 1993 to manage solid waste generated by residents and businesses in Grand County, Utah. The District manages the operations of the Community Recycle Center, the Moab Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill, and the Klondike Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. Both residents and local waste collection and hauling companies deliver solid waste and recyclables generated in Grand County to the District's facilities. **Safety for our workers, customers, and the general public is the District's top priority as it relates to our operations and overall scope of solid waste management in Grand County.***

Additional information can be obtained online at the following locations:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/transmission.html>

<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>

<https://swana.org/>

<https://wasterecycling.org/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/14/811609026/the-new-coronavirus-can-live-on-surfaces-for-2-3-days-heres-how-to-clean-them>

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v2>

<https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r315/r315.htm>



SOLID WASTE
SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT #1