

# SJMHS Safety Policy

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## Environmental Policy

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### SJMHS

Section Number 300 – Hazardous Materials

#### Policy Number 308

Effective Date: 09/1998

Reviewed/Revised Date: 02/2001, 02/2004, 01/2007

Approved by: SJMHS EOC Safety Committee

### Policy

It is the policy of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS), which includes all SJMHS owned, leased and operated buildings and services, to conduct all of its operations in an environmentally responsible and sensitive manner. SJMHS will fully comply with both the letter and the spirit of all applicable Federal, State and Local regulatory requirements governing hazardous materials and wastes, pollution prevention and environmental protection. It is recognized that the health and well being of the environment contributes to the health and well being of the communities and populations we serve. SJMHS will strive to continuously improve its systems and procedures related to environmental protection and pollution prevention activities. SJMHS will manage its facilities and properties in an environmentally responsible manner. SJMHS will participate as appropriate in community, industry and/or governmental sponsored groups addressing environmental issues affecting the communities we serve.

### Narrative

Environmental protection is the responsibility of all SJMHS departments and employees. As a health care organization, SJMHS must handle and manage a wide variety of potentially hazardous or polluting materials including: medical wastes, radioactive materials, and hazardous chemicals and wastes. Many of our processes present potential water and air quality issues that demand continuous monitoring and control. Proper and responsible handling of these materials and processes is imperative to prevent pollution, reduce waste and protect our environment. A host of Federal, State and Local regulatory requirements are in place to guide this organization in achieving environmental compliance.

### Procedure

1. Each department will continuously assess their operations to identify potential safety hazards and pollution risks. Each department is responsible for establishing and maintaining department specific policies and procedures designed to reduce or eliminate environmental hazards and minimize any negative environmental impact when applicable.
  - a) Potential risks will be minimized to the extent possible by seeking out less environmentally hazardous products, equipment or procedures.
  - b) Appropriate engineering controls will be implemented when it is not possible to eliminate an environmentally hazardous material or procedure.
  - c) All departments and employees will strive to reduce all types of wastes through identifying and eliminating wasteful practices and products and participate in organizational recycling and waste reduction programs.
  - d) Departments will educate and communicate organizational and department specific environmental policies goals, and objectives to employees as required.
  - e) Departments will consider using products that have recycled content, taking into account economic and quality factors.
2. The SJMHS EOC Safety Committee is responsible for monitoring environmental compliance issues, recommending and assuring that corrective action is implemented as warranted to correct deficiencies.
  - a) Objectives and targets will be established to assure continuous improvement in organizational environmental performance. The SJMHS EOC Safety Committee is responsible for establishing goals and implementing programs to meet targets. The SJMHS EOC Safety Committee is also responsible for monitoring progress and reporting activities to Executive Management.

- b) Violation of environmental law or regulatory requirements by any employee, through willful or negligent action, shall be subject to corrective action up to and including termination of employment.

**Responsibility**

SJMHS EOC Safety Committee

**References**

SJMHS EOC Safety Committee  
Product Value Analysis Committee  
SJMHS Safety Policy Manual, Section Number 300, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan  
Department Specific Hazardous Material/Pollution Prevention Policies and Procedures

**The Joint Commission Functional Chapter**

Environment of Care

<u>Approval</u>	<u>Date</u>
SJMHS EOC Safety Committee	01/2007