

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS SERVICE

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE.** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines policy for the Environmental Programs Service (EPS).
- 2. SUMMARY OF CHANGES.** The stated requirements of M-1, Part VII, “Chapter 1 Administrative Operations”, are being rescinded. This Directive documents the revision of EPS program policy and identifies the authority for the operation of Environmental Management Service (EMS) within VHA medical facilities.
- 3. RELATED ISSUES.** VHA Handbooks 1850.02, 1850.03, and 1850.04.
- 4. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY.** The Director, EPS is responsible for the content of this Handbook. Questions concerning this Directive may be directed to the Director, EPS (10NA7) at (202) 266-4603.
- 5. RESCISSIONS.** VHA Manual M-1, Part VII, Chapter 1, is rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION.** This VHA Directive is scheduled for re-certification on or before the last working day of November 2016.

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Under Secretary for Health

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**1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive identifies Environmental Programs Service (EPS) as an organizational element within VHA and the authority for the operation of Environmental Management Service (EMS) within VHA medical facilities. This VHA Directive identifies EPS as providing oversight of policies and operational guidelines for EMS and associated healthcare environmental program functions.

**2. BACKGROUND:** The EPS provides oversight, establishes objectives, plans, develops management systems and procedures to ensure program functions associated with EMS are effectively implemented and maintained at each VHA medical facility. The effectiveness of EMS operations directly impact the image of VHA medical facilities, as patients, visitors, employees and the public often base their impression of the adequacy of the medical care upon the appearance and cleanliness of the medical facility itself.

**3. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that each medical center, domiciliary, clinic, and Community Living Center (CLC) must be maintained in a state of physical and biological cleanliness which fully meet all requirements for a medical care environment.

### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. **Director, EPS.** The Director, EPS is responsible for providing oversight of policies, establishing objectives, planning, developing management systems and procedures to ensure program functions are effectively implemented and maintained at each VHA medical facility.

b. **Medical Facility Director.** The Medical Facility Director is responsible for ensuring that all healthcare environmental program functions associated with EPS are fully implemented to ensure a safe, sanitary, healing environment.

c. **Chief, Environmental Management Service.** The Chief, EMS is responsible to the Medical Facility Director for the operation of EMS, adapting the program to fit special circumstances, advising and assisting management on all matters pertaining to healthcare environmental program functions and operations.

### 5. DEFINITIONS

EPS carries out its oversight and policy responsibilities through the following healthcare environmental program functions:

a. **Healthcare Environmental Services Program (HES).** EPS oversees the HES Program which outlines the procedures, reporting requirements, and operating guidelines within VHA medical facilities which includes, but is not limited to: cleaning and protective-surface maintenance; waste handling; glazing maintenance; bed cleaning services; equipment and supplies; staffing; testing and evaluation; training; and contractual services associated with program functions.

b. **Textile Care Management Program (TCM).** EPS oversees the TCM Program which outlines the procedures, reporting requirements, and operating guidelines for textile

management, textile processing operations, and employee uniforms within VHA medical facilities.

c. **Waste and Recycling Program (WMR).** EPS oversees the WMR Program which outlines the procedures, reporting requirements, and operating guidelines for waste management and recycling within VHA medical facilities.

d. **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program.** EPS oversees the IPM Program which provides the requirements for establishing and maintaining an effective IPM program within VHA medical facilities.

e. **Interior Design (ID) Program.** EPS oversees the ID Program which provides the requirements for establishing and maintaining an ID Program within VHA medical facilities which includes, but is not limited to: planning and standardization; programming; project development; budget; customer service; and training and affiliations. *NOTE: EPS maintains program oversight regardless of where ID is aligned within the medical facility.*