

Abandoned Hospital Decontamination
Location: Major Midwestern City
Client: City Health Commissioner
Contract Amount: Confidential

PROBLEM

A major hospital was closed due to a lack of funding. Five years later, the City Fire Marshall's inspection revealed that pathological and chemical agents had been left at the facility while the first floor was still occupied by administrative operations.

SOLUTION

An investigation was conducted to determine the extent of contamination. Major waste streams identified included - unrefrigerated Hepatitis B serum, hospital radiological wastes, body parts from surgical operations, lab chemicals including unstable nitric acid stored next to aborted fetuses stored in porcelain containers in formaldehyde, and other unknowns.

The hospital's incinerator was shut down. Body parts were transported to another City incinerator. Unknowns were incinerated in a mobile methanol incinerator.

Radiological hospital wastes were scanned with a radiation scintillator to verify half-life degradation. Identifiable chemicals were classified, segregated and placed in lab packs for disposal.

Hospital walls, floors, shelves and other surfaces were decontaminated with a chlorine/surfactant based solution.

Other City owned hospitals were audited to identify and remove hazardous and pathogenic wastes.



Abandoned Hospital Assessment



Preparation of Incineration Charges



Radiation Scans of Hospital Material