



**2121 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
907-459-6770**

Dear Resident,

We need your help to better protect our residents, environment, staff and equipment. We are asking residents to start separating three categories of trash from normal trash bags; needles or syringes (**sharps**), **ashes** and **hazardous waste** (see City Code Section 66 Solid Waste).

### **Sharps**

Public work employees accidentally poked by needles while collecting trash, must be sent to medical clinics for treatment and undergo months of testing resulting in lost work time and medical costs. Effective August 2017, we are asking that you safely dispose of **sharps** by using one of the following methods:

- Re-use empty household plastic containers such as laundry or bleach containers, plastic beverage bottles, etc. All containers should be sealed safely and labeled "Sharps"
- Use a pre-printed label provided by public works to attach to household plastic containers or
- Use a labeled re-purposed plastic container provided by public works upon request

Before containers are completely full, call public works at 459-6770 to arrange a pick-up or place the labeled container out with your trash but not in trash bags for pick up with normal trash collection. To protect your privacy sharps containers can be picked up at your doorstep upon request. We appreciate your cooperation and assure you that your privacy in this matter will be respected.

### **Ashes**

Please place ashes in a separate trash bag labeled ashes next to your normal trash collection. This will prevent accidental fires in our garbage trucks. A few years ago, one of our compactor trucks caught fire on College Road. To save the truck all the garbage had to be dumped on College Road. Traffic was disrupted until the mess could be cleaned up and work productivity was impacted.

## **Hazardous Household Chemicals or Wastes**

To protect the environment, hazardous household chemicals such as paint, solvents, cleaning chemicals, motor oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze, pesticides, petroleum products, etc. need to be separated from normal trash. Please place these items next to your normal trash preferably in a cardboard box. In June 2017, motor oil in trash bags squirted out from the compactor track creating a hazmat spill on the street. Work was delayed until the spill was cleaned up.

Residents who fail to separate sharps, ashes and hazardous waste from their normal trash will be charged additional fees on garbage bills. For each violation the additional fee is; **sharps** \$200, **ashes** \$25, and **hazardous wastes** \$25.

It is our hope that by partnering with residents to separate out these items, we can keep our operating costs down and better protect the health of our employees, residents and community. If you have any of these items to be collected, please call us ahead of trash collection so that we can dispatch trained staff to pick-up the item, otherwise there will be a small delay in its collection while the garbage crew requests a special pick-up.

Large item collection fees also increased to \$85. The fee covers all the large items, furniture and qualified appliances that can be loaded onto one flatbed. Residents will need to transport refrigerators, air conditioners, and freezers directly to the Borough landfill.

Kitty litter and animal feces must be taken by residents to the Borough landfill. Residential construction debris also must be taken by residents to the Borough landfill.

City residents may directly take residential solid waste or trees, stumps, leaves, branches, roots free of charge to the landfill in a passenger vehicle, pick-up truck or by trailer with two wheels and a single axle. Please refer to the Borough website for more information about fees. **City residents are prohibited from using Borough transfer sites to dispose of solid waste.**

Residents are encouraged to recycle electronics through the Borough recycling center.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director

July 2017