

BULLETIN

NO.: 19-003  
DATE: January 7, 2019  
TO: All Personnel  
FROM: David Picone, Battalion Chief, Health and Safety Officer  
SUBJECT: **SAFETY ALERT** – Accepting Dangerous Goods

The attached **Safety Alert** addresses accepting dangerous goods at Fire-Rescue stations and/or facilities.

The SDFD Occupational Health and Safety Committee's (OHSC) special ops representative along with committee hazmat SMEs have addressed a few key reminders for your situational awareness.

Refer to bulletin #17-076 for Health and Safety communications descriptions.

Please contact the Health and Safety Office at [SDFDHealth&Safety@san Diego.gov](mailto:SDFDHealth&Safety@san Diego.gov) with comments or areas of improvement. For all other questions contact HSO/Battalion Chief David Picone at 619.533.4466 or [dpicone@san Diego.gov](mailto:dpicone@san Diego.gov)

Wellness Resources link: [“Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives”](#) or call 833-SDFD-HSO  
password – support



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

## Health & Safety Office

# SAFETY ALERT

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: 01/07/2019

Issue/Incident: Accepting Dangerous Goods

**Colin Stowell**  
Fire Chief

**Chris Webber**  
Assistant Chief  
Emergency  
Operations

**Kevin Ester**  
Assistant Chief  
Business  
Operations

**David Picone**  
Battalion Chief  
Health & Safety  
Officer

Feedback  
Suggestions and/or  
Reporting to the OHSC  
[SDFDHEALTH&SAFETY@SANDIEGO.GOV](mailto:SDFDHEALTH&SAFETY@SANDIEGO.GOV)

### Background:

Public Safety has always been a resource that citizens can utilize when they don't know "what to do." Inherently the public turns to Fire-Rescue with items that they want to do the right thing with, but don't know how or where to take the item. There has been an increasing number of items brought to fire and lifeguard stations/facilities ranging from lost keys to potentially hazardous materials. Some of these items place personnel and city property in compromising and dangerous positions. Policies are in place to prevent these situations but a lack of familiarity with them and/or the desire to be helpful has led to the following dangerous or potentially dangerous items being accepted:

- Explosive Precursors, Hazardous Materials or Compressed Gas Cylinders
- Narcotics (from a small baggie of Fentanyl to 1 kilogram of Heroin)

San Diego Fire-Rescue has internal resources to assist in the proper handling for any suspiciously dangerous items brought to our doorstep.

- **DO NOT ACCEPT** anything when you definitively don't know the contents, where it came from or the potential hazard it presents.
  - **Known items We NEVER accept under any circumstance:**
    - Household hazardous waste, prescription drugs and home generated sharps; refer the citizen to 858.694.7000
    - Paint recycling; refer the citizen to 855.724.6809
    - Fireworks and ammunition greater than 5lb or .50 caliber

### To increase safety, review existing SOPs and follow "Best Practices" including:

- Do Not allow the item to be brought into or left at a city facility/vehicle or it is now the Hot Zone and potentially contaminated
- Do Not take possession of any item that is **Unknown or Potentially Dangerous** in nature
- Do Not let the responsible party leave. If they must leave, gather their contact information or at the very least a good description of the individual
- Do Not open, cut into, sample, inspect, etc. – let the SME with the proper training, education, experience, PPE and technology determine the hazard
- Involve your first and/or second level supervisor and contact ECDC for needed resources immediately
- Follow S.I.N guidelines – Safety, Isolate, Notify
- Request a consult with subject matter experts – phone calls, photos, video
- Hazmat and EDT are available for consultation, often without the need to physically respond
- Both teams can advise how to proceed and have the appropriate contacts if the item warrants escalation

### References:

Ops Manual SI 02: SPECIAL OPERATIONS Explosive Device Incidents Section 25 & 27

[HazMat First Responder Operational – Drill Manual Chapter 38](#)