

# ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY COMMITTEE

2024

## **Committee Purpose**

It is the duty of this committee and its workgroups to:

1. Address dental materials and dental environmental waste issues, including best management practices, materials recycling, hazardous waste compliance, and the Minnesota Voluntary Amalgam Separator Program.
2. Coordinate dentistry's involvement within a Minnesota network of emergency preparedness and disaster response services.
3. Address Minnesota radiation regulations.
4. Address dental office workplace safety matters: OSHA, ergonomics, etc.
5. Address abuse of prescription drugs and our role in prevention and networking with other professionals.
6. Compile and/or develop related resources appropriate to these areas of focus.
7. Provide leadership and deliver results of value to MDA members.

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Environment and Safety Committee is multifold:

Our environmental mission is to develop, compile, and present best practice environmental solutions to MDA members, helping them to address dental environmental waste issues pertinent to their practice and their community. Additionally, dental materials science is encompassed within this mission.

Our safety mission furthers the role of dentistry within coordinated regional disaster response activities. Additionally, matters pertinent to dental office safety (including OSHA and radiation safety) and our role in preventing abuse of prescription drugs are encompassed within this mission.

## **Member Responsibilities and Job Description**

1. The committee provides an umbrella of scientific common interest, within which workgroups operate cooperatively.
2. Committee membership draws from those possessing assets and interests that best balance the current goals of the committee.
3. Each workgroup is led by an assigned committee member.
4. The committee functions by shared leadership. The committee will meet upon the initiative of an individual workgroup and its assigned staff. Such meetings will be led by the workgroup chair.
5. Regular attendance and participation in committee meetings and respective workgroup sessions is expected.
6. Members may be asked to participate in associated activities with other interested parties.
7. Members may be asked to assist with member communications.

## **Relationships**

The committee will retain relationships with certain divisions of the American Dental Association, University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, and other resources of value to the committee and to the MDA.

Active relationships presently include Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Legislature, the Minnesota Department of Health, and any other professional group impacted by our activities.

The committee will include other interested parties as needed.

## **Goals and Objectives**

### Environment Workgroup

1. Continue MDA's relationship with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) pertaining to amalgam recycling and voluntary amalgam separator programs, which are part of ongoing Minnesota statewide heavy metals waste reduction initiatives.
2. Develop and maintain resources for identification, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste generated within dental offices.
  - a. Pharmaceutical wastes
  - b. Chemical wastes
  - c. Material wastes
3. Coordinate information on product characteristics (to aid purchase decisions), reduction of hazardous waste generation, and compliance with state and local regulations by dental offices via appropriate office protocols and disposal methods.
4. Publish and make available all of the above as useful resources to dental offices.
5. Maintain a proactive stance regarding environmental and health-safety issues associated with dental materials.

### Safety Workgroup

1. Participate in the network and registry of resources coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Health for purposes of disaster response preparedness.
2. Assist members regarding Minnesota-specific OSHA regulations, radiation safety regulations, etc.
3. Work with the Minnesota Department of Health to revise and streamline radiology site visits that will save time and money for the practitioner and the state.
4. Work with all professional entities to assist our members in dealing with the abuse of prescription drugs.

### Committee of the Whole

Assess structure and function in order to maximize effectiveness and value to our members.