

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division
Civil Unrest Emergency Guidance Document

Title: Civil Unrest Q&A Pharmacy Destruction Options

Question: My pharmacy experienced damage due to civil unrest and now I have damaged drugs. What should I do with them?

Answer: When possible, secure all drugs for assessment. Any controlled substances damaged by fire or water, exposed to high temperatures, or otherwise damaged should be collected for proper disposal. Any pharmacy that desires to dispose of controlled substances must do so in accordance with the DEA regulations, including recordkeeping (21 CFR Part 1317). A pharmacy can promptly destroy controlled substances by rendering them non-retrievable using an on-site method of destruction. See 21 CFR 1317.05(a)(1). Alternatively, a pharmacy can promptly deliver that controlled substance to a reverse distributor's registered location by common or contract carrier pick-up or by reverse distributor pick-up at the pharmacy's registered location. See 21 CFR 1317.05(a)(2).

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