Blood On Our Hands

ADDRESSING CRIME SCENE CLEANUP IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP of Philadelphia
Together we can end the cycle of violence.
The Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) victim service agency that was founded nearly 40 years ago in Philadelphia, PA. Its mission is to end the cycle of violence by providing a wide range of intervention, prevention, and support services to children, youth, and adults traumatized by exposure to violence, to help them rebuild their lives in the aftermath of violence.

This report is prepared pursuant to the Intra-Familial Homicide Enhanced Response Initiative of AVP, which was supported by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) at the United States Department of Justice through grant number 2016-XV-GX-K023. This report is the product of AVP and not OVC. It is intended to inform interested parties of the research and analysis prepared by AVP and to encourage civic discussion. Any analysis, conclusions, or opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views, opinions, or policies of OVC or the United States Department of Justice.

To learn more about the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia, or to make a tax-deductible contribution to support our work, please visit www.avpphila.org.

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This report is written with deep gratitude and in partnership with residents of Philadelphia who have been impacted by violence and survivors of intra-familial homicides. These survivors graciously and courageously volunteered to share their experiences in the hope of improving Philadelphia’s response to its residents in the future.

To our clients and to all survivors of homicide in Philadelphia: this report is dedicated to you.
OVERVIEW

In 2016, the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) was one of seven national organizations awarded a grant from the United States Department of Justice’s Office of Victims of Crime to enhance systemic responses to complex homicides. AVP conducted an extensive investigative study exploring the experiences and needs of survivors of intra-familial homicide through interviews with survivors. In addition to the profound trauma interviewees described, many reported the unexpected ordeal of having to clean up the crime scene. While this experience is not unique to intra-familial acts of violence, this key finding exposed a glaring oversight in existing policies and practices that impact victims of violence across Philadelphia.

Current practices direct the Philadelphia Police Department and support personnel to travel to the crime scenes to gather evidence and conduct an investigation, but do not address the need for cleaning any biohazardous material left at the scene. In the midst of traumatic shock, victims of crime, family members and friends of homicide victims, and communities impacted by homicide and violence are therefore left to coordinate and pay for cleaning up the crime scene. This often results in these individuals cleaning up blood and other biohazardous waste themselves at great physical and psychological costs, and compounds the harms of violence and trauma that disproportionately impact Philadelphians who are Black and those living below the poverty line.

This report identifies the circumstances faced by survivors and crime victims in the aftermath of a homicide in Philadelphia, and argues that it is unjust to place the burden on survivors and victims to clean up biohazards. This report proposes that the City of Philadelphia should assume the logistical and financial responsibility for removing biohazardous materials from crime scenes and suggests potential models of implementation for the city to consider. The City has a moral responsibility to address this issue to protect its citizens and communities from the physical, psychological, and financial burdens of crime scene cleanup.

It wouldn’t be less traumatizing because your loved one was murdered but it would be more positive not to have to do it, not to clean up where, not to wipe the blood that flowed through her body, her life source.

- FAMILY MEMBER OF HOMICIDE VICTIM
INTRODUCTION

The lack of any crime scene cleanup policy or practice in the City of Philadelphia is a public health issue, and contributes to exacerbating social inequities. Families and community members are currently responsible for cleaning gruesome scenes filled with bodily remains, including blood, brain matter and bodily tissue, left behind by homicides, non-fatal shootings, and aggravated assaults. In 2020, there were 2,167 shooting victims and 499 homicides in Philadelphia, resulting in multiple daily crime scenes exposing communities to biohazardous materials on sidewalks, and inside peoples’ homes, cars, commercial establishments, places of worship, and community centers.

In Philadelphia, victims of crime (“victims”), family members and friends of homicide victims (“co-victims”), and communities impacted by homicide and violence (“survivors”) are disproportionately Black, Latine, and live below the poverty line. These marginalized communities, in their most immediate state of traumatic shock, are expected to independently initiate and pay for crime scene cleanup services. Both logistics and expenses are prohibitive barriers and often result in survivors cleaning crime scenes themselves. As a result of the violent crime, survivors already experience trauma that affects their physical, psychological, social, and economic well-being. The added responsibility of navigating and cleaning up loved ones’ remains then compounds trauma and exposes survivors to significant and potentially fatal health risks from the handling of biohazardous waste by inexperienced citizens. Survivors experience systemic barriers when burdened with coordinating the crime scene cleanup, its prohibitive cost, the limited public reimbursements, and the reliance on homeownership to fund its expense. These combined with structural racism, which impacts income and homeownership, make the expectations of “public” crime scene cleanup inequitable and inaccessible.

Under Philadelphia’s current crime scene practices, victims of crime and survivors of homicide are not expected to pay for police presence, costs associated with criminal investigations, or services administered by the Philadelphia Medical Examiner’s Office. The City of Philadelphia can reduce further traumatization of the survivors by advancing programs and solutions that assume the logistics of biohazard removal and assist families and communities from experiencing these unnecessary traumas, financial burdens, and health hazards.

"My [family member] had to go in there and clean off the walls before I went in so that I didn’t see my [decedent’s] blood. ... I told him, I said, “I can’t go back in there until we do some clean up.” He said, “I’ll go in.” I didn’t realize how... We all grew up together. Why would I think that he would be any stronger to do something like that than I would?"

- FAMILY MEMBER OF HOMICIDE VICTIM
After an act of violence, police and first responders arrive at the crime scene and secure the area. Detectives and personnel from the Crime Scene Unit of the Philadelphia Police Department then arrive to document the crime scene and collect any evidence. If the crime was a homicide, the decedent’s body is then removed and taken to the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office, and anyone injured is taken to the hospital.6

After the police, forensic investigators, and other personnel finish processing the scene, they vacate the area, leaving behind residual debris and biohazardous materials, such as blood, bodily fluids, and other potentially infectious materials. Depending on the location of the crime, the responsibility to clean the scene falls on the surviving family member(s), roommate(s), landlord, property manager, or community members.

We cleaned all up the stairs, from the bathroom... I remember her blood smeared across the floor, trying to get it up into a rag, that went into some water, that just got poured down the garbage thing, the sewage, it sent chills all through your body. And touching the spot where she last laid, it just eats away.

- FAMILY MEMBER OF HOMICIDE VICTIM
CONSEQUENCES OF THE STATUS QUO

DANGEROUS, POTENTIALLY FATAL HEALTH RISKS

The unsafe handling of blood and other bodily remains has serious and potentially fatal health risks including contraction of viruses like Hepatitis B and C and other bloodborne pathogens. The use of inadequate personal protective equipment (or, PPE) and other improper crime scene cleanup activities carries high risk of serious health consequences.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has strict regulations for employees exposed to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials. These regulations include rigorous training, vaccinations, PPE and other proper equipment. It is highly unlikely that family members or other co-victims are able to adequately protect themselves and fully remove all biohazards during crime scene cleanup. This requires, for example, performing research, buying PPE, and renting equipment, in the midst of the survivors’ ongoing trauma. Non-professionals cleaning up crime scenes also commonly dispose of biohazardous materials in the sink or regular waste, putting not only themselves and other residents at risk, but also sanitation workers and any individuals in the community who may come into contact with the waste materials.

TRAUMA & SIGNIFICANT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Survivors of homicide are likely to experience a range of biopsychosocial harms in the aftermath of a murder. For example, survivors of homicide are more than three times as likely to experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than the general population and are at-risk of developing complicated grief, depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, and other disorders. Experiencing multiple traumatic events is known to increase the complexity of symptoms people experience and may further complicate healing and treatment.

Although research does not exist on the added psychological harms to victims and survivors of cleaning or interacting with crime scenes, survivors interviewed by AVP years after their loved one was murdered described traumatic memories specifically associated with the details of cleaning the scene. Research also highlights the negative impacts of interacting with trauma scenes on professionals. Crime scene investigators, medical examiners, and coroners have significant levels of trauma, anxiety, depression, PTSD, and other trauma disorders, all of which are increased as the contact with the decedent’s family and loved ones.

“It's a picture I can't get out of my head.”

- FAMILY MEMBER OF HOMICIDE VICTIM
increases. These negative psychological effects have led to many crime scene companies keeping counselors on retainer. This is further evidence that the traumatic impact of cleaning crime scenes would cause additional harm to victims and survivors.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF TRAUMA OF VICTIMS & SURVIVORS

The traumatic impact of homicide survivorship and community violence is a public health issue that impacts the long-term emotional, social, physical, and economic well-being of individuals, families, and communities. About one in ten Americans will lose a loved one to homicide during their lifetime, and each homicide affects three to ten loved ones. Research on collective trauma highlights that shared experiences of trauma have increased nationwide in 2020, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recession, and protests for racial justice. The current level of violence in Philadelphia has reached quarter century highs and continues to expose residents to collective trauma and grief on a daily basis.

Additionally, the Philadelphia ACE Project, which looked at how adverse childhood experiences (or ACEs), such as that with community violence, impact health behaviors and outcomes in adulthood, found that seven in ten adults in Philadelphia experienced one ACE, and two in five had experienced four or more. Correlations between racial groups and ACE scores, mental health and psychosocial variables were evaluated and found that higher ACE score increased probability of lifetime PTSD for White non-Hispanic, Black, and Hispanic adolescents.

Evidence suggests that prevention strategies aimed at reducing the likelihood of adverse effects following trauma are effective. From a public health perspective, preventing trauma associated with victims and survivors is an invaluable and justifiable objective that demands our attention. The long-term traumatic impact on a survivor from cleaning up after a loved one’s homicide cannot be underestimated. Efforts to develop and promote strong practices that enhance the City’s capacity to undertake the responsibility of crime scene cleanup can be seen as a prevention strategy that lessens the prospect of additional trauma for victims and survivors alike.

FINANCIAL BURDENS OF HEALING FROM TRAUMA

The financial burden on victims and survivors arising from the costs of cleanup is another unexpected hardship. The costs of healing from trauma and co-occurring mental disorders
creates a financial strain for victims and survivors after crime scene cleanup due to costly treatments and more complex health impairments overall. Indirect costs such as transportation, childcare, and medication increase the financial burden, intensified by lost wages as many victims and survivors have difficulty maintaining employment.\(^{27}\) For example, individuals with PTSD have healthcare costs that are three times higher than those without PTSD diagnoses, ranging in annual direct costs from $500-$20,000 per person, with additional indirect costs averaging $5,000 per person annually.\(^{28,29,30}\)

Trauma-related stress and disorders incur societal and economic costs through increased need for social services as well as workforce losses when people are unable to work.\(^{31}\) The economic costs of PTSD, in particular, are staggering, with work impairment associated with the disorder estimated at 3.6 days per month per person with PTSD.\(^{20}\) The annual lost productivity due to PTSD is estimated at over $3 billion dollars in the United States alone.\(^{20}\)

**BARRIERS TO OBTAINING PROFESSIONAL CLEANUP SERVICES**

**THE BURDEN OF NAVIGATION**

Despite the existence of professional companies specializing in crime scene cleanup and biohazard remediation, **survivors of homicide often report that they never considered professional services or the costs.** Cleaning up a crime scene is an immediate need in the hours and days after the violence when **survivors are in a complete state of traumatic shock.** People experiencing this type of acute trauma may be **neurologically cut off from parts of the brain responsible for executive functioning, working memory, planning, and language** - all of which would be necessary to research and coordinate professional services.\(^{32}\)

In interviews conducted by AVP, survivors reported that they did not receive information or support in anticipating or dealing with crime scene cleanup. Additionally, few online resources and guides are available from non-profits or government agencies about the process, logistics, or pricing for professional cleanup services. This means survivors --in a heightened state of trauma-- are left to independently navigate all the logistics of researching the services needed, contacting providers for quotes, and coordinating the cleaning. For private residential crime scenes, survivors may not want to return home until the crime scene is cleaned up or may feel a sense of urgency and compulsion to remove physical reminders of the crime. As a result, survivors often clean the crime scene themselves.

If victims and survivors get to the point of researching professional services and call to gather quotes, they must then vividly describe the details of the scene and preceding events. Prior to responding to the scene, **crime scene cleanup companies report needing to ask detailed questions about the violence and crime scene.** These questions, which may include describing
the bodily remains at the scene, the weapons (and caliber) used, location of gunshot wounds, and the extent of biohazardous materials that need to be removed, are used to assess the equipment and time required, as well as the cost of the service. This process of having survivors recount the events and describe the scene in detail can be profoundly retraumatizing and furthers survivors’ feelings of lack of agency and control. To inform the companies, the survivors may also need to ask the police for the details of the violent crime. These may be details that survivors never hoped to know and are desperate to forget.

**PROHIBITIVE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS**

Private crime scene cleanup companies provide trained technicians with specialized equipment and supplies for handling biohazardous materials and therefore charge at relatively high rates. The national average to hire a private crime scene cleanup company costs $2,500-$4,000 per crime scene cleanup. Two local companies serving Philadelphia and New Jersey estimate out-of-pocket costs ranging from $2,000-$20,000. This exorbitant expense intensifies the financial strain victims of crime experience in the aftermath of a violence, such as paying for funeral expenses, medical bills, transportation, and possible loss of earnings.

Philadelphia’s poverty rate is the highest amongst the ten largest cities in the United States, making paying for a professional cleanup company out of reach for the vast majority of Philadelphians. Areas hardest hit by homicide also experience high levels of poverty with 30-48% of people living below the federal poverty level (see Figure 1).

![Figure 1. Comparison of homicide totals and poverty rate in Philadelphia, 2016-2020.](image-url)
These same areas have median household incomes ranging from $20,353-$34,579, compared to Philadelphia’s city-wide median of $45,927 (see Figure 2).³⁸

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zip Codes</th>
<th>Total Homicides (2016-2020)</th>
<th>% of Total Homicides (2016-202)</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
<th>% of Population Below the Federal Poverty Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19134</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$31,533</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19140</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$22,790</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19132</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>$21,600</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19143</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>$34,579</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
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<td>106</td>
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<td>$33,611</td>
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<tr>
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<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>19133</td>
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<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia City</td>
<td>1801³⁸</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45,927</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Philadelphia zip codes hardest hit by homicides, 2016-2020.³⁷

How are these same Philadelphia residents expected to pay $2,000–$20,000 for crime scene cleanup?

IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION OF INSURANCE COVERAGE

Homeowners and renters insurance are identified as the primary source of payment for crime scene cleanup services, but not all policies cover this expense and many have high deductibles.⁴⁰ Relying on private homeowners insurance also excludes a large percentage of the population from accessing crime scene cleanup services. Though 52% of households in the city own their homes, only 49% of Black Philadelphians own their homes compared to 75% of white Philadelphians.³⁸,⁴¹ Rates of homeownership also tend to be lower in communities hardest hit by homicide, thereby making this payment option for crime scene cleanup services less accessible to the communities that need it the most (see Figure 3).

In Philadelphia, 48% of households are renters, a number that has steadily increased in the past decade.⁴²,⁴³ Although upwards of 95% of homeowners in the United States carry homeowners insurance, it is estimated that only about 37% of renters in the United States have renters
insurance. Not only are households that rent less likely to have insurance, but the coverage for renters insurance is often narrow and may not be sufficient to cover professional crime scene cleanup costs.

Homeownership and access to homeowners insurance is an expectation embedded in the current crime scene cleanup practice in Philadelphia that further disproportionately impacts Black communities and other communities of color, exacerbating the more highly publicized practices of redlining, housing discrimination, and gentrification.

Figure 3. Homeownership Rates by Zip Code with Homicide Locations 2016-2020.
VCAP: INSUFFICIENT AND RESTRICTIVE STATE REIMBURSEMENT

The sole public option available to financially assist families and victims of crime in Pennsylvania is Pennsylvania’s Victim Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), administered through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).\textsuperscript{47} VCAP is set up to reimburse victims for crime-related expenses including crime scene cleanup. However, VCAP offers a maximum reimbursement of $500 for crime scene cleanup, making it insufficient to cover the comprehensive costs of professional cleanup services.\textsuperscript{48} The Pennsylvania legislature has not increased the $500 disbursement cap in at least 22 years.\textsuperscript{49} If the amount of reimbursement kept up with the rate of inflation, this amount would be approximately $800 today -- an amount that would still be insufficient to cover local crime scene cleanup costs.\textsuperscript{50}

VCAP also has restrictive eligibility policies for crime scene cleanup making it inaccessible. For example, victims and survivors are not eligible for financial assistance if the crime scene is outside of a private residence.\textsuperscript{46} For instance, if violence occurs on the street, in a shared apartment hallway, or in a private motor vehicle, even if it is being used as a primary residence, VCAP will not provide a reimbursement.\textsuperscript{47} In the past three years, VCAP has only distributed an average of eight reimbursements annually for crime scene cleanup statewide.

Other states use similar victims compensation programs to reimburse families for some of the costs associated with crime scene cleanups. Some states offer higher maximum reimbursement caps for crime scene cleanups including neighboring states Ohio ($750), Delaware ($1,000), West Virginia ($1,000), New York ($2,500), and New Jersey ($4,000).\textsuperscript{51,52,53,54,55}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Bordering States- East</th>
<th>Bordering States- South</th>
<th>Bordering States- West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum amount for crime scene cleanup</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall compensation maximum</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 4. Comparison of reimbursement amounts for crime scene cleanups for states neighboring Pennsylvania*

Even with higher caps, however, these reimbursements may still be insufficient to cover the full costs of professional crime scene cleanup, only cover a fraction of crime scenes, and require victims and survivors to cover the upfront costs of professional crime scene cleanup services.
STRUCTURAL & SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES

The incidents of homicide and violence, and therefore the burden of crime scene cleanup, are not felt equally across Philadelphia. Of the 2,167 shooting victims in 2020, **84% were Black non-Hispanic, 9% were Hispanic, and only 7% were White non-Hispanic** compared to Philadelphia’s general population breakdown of 44%, 14%, and 36% respectively. The same racial inequity is true for homicide co-victimization: 83% of homicides between 2016-2020 involved Black victims compared to 10% and 7% of their White Hispanic and White non-Hispanic counterparts respectively. In the status quo, **crime scene cleanup is part of a larger system that further marginalizes Black and Latine people** in the aftermath of homicide and violence. For example, within zip codes hardest hit by homicide, Black and White Hispanic communities are disproportionately overrepresented as victims of homicide compared with their percentage of the population (see Figure 5).

*Figure 5. Ethno-racial demographics of the general population in the eight most impacted zip codes compared to that of the homicide victims.*
People impacted by violence in Philadelphia are also far more likely to come from communities with higher rates of poverty, with the violence being concentrated in specific neighborhoods (see Figure 1).\textsuperscript{60,1} In fact, more than half of the total homicides from 2016 to 2020 took place in just eight zip codes in Philadelphia (see Figure 2).\textsuperscript{61} These same zip codes are also significantly less affluent than the City of Philadelphia as a whole (see Figure 2).

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON RACIAL & ETHNIC MINORITIES IN PHILADELPHIA

Trauma disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minorities in Philadelphia. Research has shown that Black individuals exposed to trauma have a higher risk of developing PTSD compared to white individuals, and racial and ethnic minorities are overall less likely to seek treatment for PTSD.\textsuperscript{62} Black and Latine communities in particular may face additional barriers to support services.\textsuperscript{5} Research on homicide bereavement and culturally responsive models of coping for Black survivors also highlight experiences of “anticipated hardship,” or a reluctance to seek support from government and clinical providers due to historic and contemporary racial victimization.\textsuperscript{63}

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The three key policy recommendations detailed below would assist the City Council in assessing more equitable solutions to crime scene cleanup policies and practices that alleviate the logistical and financial burden on victims and survivors.\textsuperscript{64}

POLICY RECOMMENDATION 1

Mandate that city agencies responding to crime scenes assume the logistical and financial responsibility of removing biohazardous materials and pilot these services in either communities hardest hit by homicide and poverty or in cases of homicides inside a private residence.
This recommendation would address the following problems:

1. Prevent the mental health and public health consequences of subjecting already marginalized communities impacted by violence to biohazardous materials;

2. Remove the logistical and financial burdens of coordinating crime scene cleanup services from victims of violent crime in Philadelphia and place them onto paid professionals; and

3. Decrease the time between a crime occurring and biohazardous material removal thereby reducing health hazards and preventing ongoing displacement of survivors from their homes and neighborhoods.

We propose two options for the City Council to consider to achieve these outcomes. Comparative costs of each option are not readily available, so rough estimates are provided.

- **OPTION 1:** Establish a Biohazard Remediation Team of trained professionals with necessary equipment to respond to crime scenes.

  Primary barriers include establishing standard operating procedures, purchasing specialized equipment, and hiring and training personnel in assessment and remediation of biohazardous materials from a variety of crime scenes.

  ✓ **Action Step:** City Council considers forming a committee to assess the feasibility and costs associated with establishing an internal Biohazard Remediation Team.

- **OPTION 2:** Create a Rotational Biohazard Remediation Program, modeling it on the City's existing and successful rotational towing program.65

  The established city system of coordinating privately contracted towing companies through its rotational towing program offers a blueprint of oversight, logistics, and payment structure.65 Given the program's established track record of efficiency, the
The rotational towing program is a viable option as a model that the City can adopt and modify to apply to the need of crime scene cleanup services.

Logistically, this option also includes the same relevant city personnel, such as police officers and forensic investigators, who are both already on the scene and involved in coordinating dispatch for towing services.

The principal issues with this option include the logistics of establishing standardized price guidelines for crime scene cleanup, the financial costs to administer the Rotational Biohazard Remediation Program, and the direct costs of paying privately-owned companies for their professional services.

- **Action Steps:** City Council considers requesting the assistance of the Managing Director's Office and Department of Licenses and Inspections work to adapt protocols of Philadelphia's rotational towing program for contracting with crime scene cleanup companies.

  - The City of Philadelphia, local crime scene cleanup companies, and other relevant experts collaborate to develop pricing structure and price limits for different types of biohazard remediation.

  - City Council considers establishing Biohazardous Remediation Program regulations (similar to regulations for the rotational towing program).  

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**EQUITY-CENTERED OPPORTUNITIES TO PILOT CRIME SCENE CLEANUP SERVICES**

No family member, neighbor, or friend should have to clean bodily remains after an act of violence. However, action is needed urgently and the ongoing consequences of this gap in practice are inequitably borne by Black and Latine communities. **We recommend two pilot opportunities targeting support to communities most impacted.**
• **PILOT OPTION 1:** City begins by piloting crime scene cleanup responses for **homicides that occur in zip codes hardest hit by homicide.**

Between 2016-2020, **55% of Philadelphia’s homicides** happened in only **eight of the city’s 48 zip codes.** These communities also experience higher levels of poverty compared to other areas of the city and are predominantly Black and Latine (see Figures 5 and 6).

![Figure 6](image.png)

**Figure 6. Comparison of homicide totals and poverty rates in Philadelphia with the eight most impacted zip codes highlighted, 2016-2020.**

• **PILOT OPTION 2:** City begins by piloting crime scene cleanup responses for **homicides that occur inside a private residence** across Philadelphia.

When homicides occur inside a private residence, **survivors are more likely to interact with the scene of the crime, clean the scene themselves, or experience displacement.** Anecdotal reports suggest that the Fire Department may currently hose down biohazardous material when shootings or homicides occur on the street but no public service responds to biohazardous waste inside a home.

Homicides inside the home are also more likely to be the result of intimate partner violence and child abuse and neglect fatalities causing added layers of trauma for survivors to navigate.
The locations of homicides that occur inside a private residence are not known outside of the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD). Therefore, demographic data for communities that this pilot would most immediately impact are not readily available.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION 2**

**Develop trauma-informed and culturally sensitive training and policies for law enforcement that enhance their communications with survivors and victims of crime.**

Survivors of homicide and crime may be contacted by law enforcement to retrieve belongings after a crime. However, current practices do not train or require City personnel to communicate in ways that support the well-being of survivors.

In cases where the responsibility for biohazard removal is not assumed by the City, City personnel must be trained to do no further harm. Victim services providers or the newly established Office of the Victim Advocate could provide opportunities to establish trauma-informed communication policies and training.

- **Action Step:** City Council considers a partnership between PPD and the newly created Office of the Victim Advocate and/or local victim service providers and community-based organizations to provide training, and implement policies and best practices for trauma-informed and culturally sensitive communication with survivors of homicide and crime.

> The cup holder had about an inch of blood in it. It had a flat tray behind the cup holder. That had about an inch of blood in it. It was already coagulated. It was already turning to mold. It was going from that liquid to gummy solid... I got to get my [decedent’s] phone out of here. It’d be nice if somebody told me what I was getting ready to walk into, or said, ‘Hey, let me go get that. You don’t want to see that,’ or something, but nothing. ... I mean, when the homicide detectives told me that I could go down there and retrieve the stuff, I wasn’t picturing I had to go to a bloody vehicle and grab everything. I wish that the stuff I was going to retrieve, somebody else could have retrieved it, or maybe it was cleaned up before I got it back.

> - FAMILY MEMBER OF HOMICIDE VICTIM
POLICY RECOMMENDATION 3

Increase accessibility of information on crime scene cleanup for Philadelphians by providing comprehensive resources that educate and support survivors.

Currently, the City does not provide information for residents on what to expect at a crime scene and what resources are available for biohazard remediation and reimbursement.

Until the City enacts any of the aforedescribed recommendations, providing comprehensive information to the public is a minimum effort the City can undertake to immediately alleviate one aspect of the logistical burden victims and survivors face in navigating crime scene cleanup.

✔️ **Action Step:** City Council considers composing and disseminating a comprehensive resource to the public on a City-sanctioned website (such as that of the forthcoming Office of the Victim Advocate) that (1) educates the public on crime scenes (similar to New York City’s Guidelines for Trauma Scene Management -- see Appendix A), and (2) provides a list of licensed companies that provide biohazard remediation services (similar to the Florida Department of Health’s Trauma Scene Clean Up Providers -- see Appendix B).
Endnotes


3 The term “victims and survivors” is used in this report to collectively describe victims of crime, family members and friends of homicide victims, and communities impacted by homicide and violence.

4 The term ‘Latine’ is a gender-neutral and pan-ethnic term used in this report, where possible, to describe people of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race or language spoken, and excludes people from Spain or Portugal. While the terms “Latine/Latina/Latino” and “Hispanic” are sometimes used interchangeably by data sources used in this report, such as the United States Census Bureau and Open Data Philly, “Hispanic” is limited to people with ancestry from Spain and Latin American Spanish-speaking countries.


7 The Hepatitis B virus can survive outside the body and remain infectious for up to 7 days on environmental surfaces at room temperature, and the Hepatitis C virus can survive outside the body and remain infectious for up to 6 weeks on environmental surfaces at room temperature; see Paintsil, E., Binka, M., Patel, A., Lindenbach, B. D., & Heimer, R. (2014). Hepatitis C Virus Maintains Infectivity for Weeks After Drying on Inanimate Surfaces at Room Temperature: Implications for Risks of Transmission, The Journal of Infectious Diseases, 209(8), 1205–1211. https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jit648


19 Kahl, J. (2005, August). Cleaning up the smell of death: Crime scene cleanup is a necessary part of the process. Law Enforcement Technology, 3(2), 50–56.

21 Limited research in the past 30 years has been conducted to update these estimates on the prevalence of homicide co-victimization and increased access to others through social media may indicate that these figures are underestimated. Vincent, N., McCormack, J., & Johnson, S. (2015). A comprehensive conceptual program model for supporting families surviving a homicide victim. *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal, 32*(1), 57–64. See also Redmond, L. M. (1989). *Surviving: When someone you love was murdered.* *Psychological Consultation & Education Service.*


37 Philadelphia Police Department, Delaware Valley Intelligence Center. *Homicide Data from 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2020.*


40 Aftermath. (n.d.) *Price and Payment Options.* Retrieved February 18, 2021, from [https://www.aftermath.com/services/pricing/?st-t=google-*&vt-k=&vt-mt=&vt-n=&vt-d=&vt-a=&vt-ap=&gclid=CjwKCAiAp4KCBhB6EiwAx8Rxbpl-qaxA0oumb3PyMA4iwq8MFRAn0WHIDWXO8mL3RtM4uZH-R-KH1RoC7Uq4V0_bWE](https://www.aftermath.com/services/pricing/?st-t=google-*&vt-k=&vt-mt=&vt-n=&vt-d=&vt-a=&vt-ap=&gclid=CjwKCAiAp4KCBhB6EiwAx8Rxbpl-qaxA0oumb3PyMA4iwq8MFRAn0WHIDWXO8mL3RtM4uZH-R-KH1RoC7Uq4V0_bWE)


42 U.S. Census Bureau. *2019 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates Data Profiles: Selected Housing*
Characteristics.
43 PEW Charitable Trusts. (2017). Philadelphia’s Poor: Who they are, where they live, and how that has changed.
57 The City of Philadelphia records the race and ethnicity of victims as separate, with Hispanic and non-Hispanic as the options for ethnicity, and White, Black, Asian, Indigenous, and Other as the options for race.
58 Only Black, White Hispanic and White non-Hispanic individuals were included. Individuals of other races were omitted due to low homicide victimization rates. Only individuals of one race are included in the census demographics due to inability to track individuals of multiple races in the homicide data.
61 These percentages are calculated out of the number of homicides for which the zip code of the incident could be accurately determined.
65 These percentages are calculated out of the number of homicides for which the zip code of the incident could be accurately determined.
Guidelines for Trauma Scene Management

A trauma scene is a place that is contaminated by human blood or bodily fluids following a traumatic incident, such as a car accident, a crime or a fall. In these cases, property owners are responsible for cleaning and restoring their property and for protecting workers and the public from bloodborne pathogens (microorganisms such as viruses that can cause disease).

The following guidelines help property owners and the public clean up trauma scenes safely by providing information about property owners’ responsibilities, clean-up procedures, waste disposal and hiring a contractor. They reference existing laws and recommendations and are in compliance with §17-193 of the New York City Administrative Code.

Property Owners’ Responsibilities

1. Private and public property owners are responsible for clean-up if a traumatic incident takes place on their property.
2. Property owners who do not have employees to clean up should hire contractors (see the Hiring a Contractor section for more information).
3. Private and public property owners and professional contractors must comply with city, state and federal laws. All private employers must comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29CFR1910.1030) when cleaning up trauma scenes. Government agencies must also comply with this standard in accordance with the New York State Public Employees Safety and Health Act.

The Bloodborne Pathogen Standard requires that employers:

- Implement an Exposure Control Plan that identifies steps taken to protect workers and the public from bloodborne pathogens during trauma scene management
- Provide training for employees who may have contact with human blood and other bodily fluids
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (such as gloves, eye protection and impermeable coveralls)
- Offer Hepatitis B vaccination to all workers
- Record all contact with blood, other bodily fluids and potentially contaminated sharp objects, and offer follow-up medical attention if needed

Read the full Bloodborne Pathogens Standard at https://www.osha.gov (search for “bloodborne pathogen standard”).
Clean-up Procedures

When cleaning up a trauma scene, property owners and cleaning contractors must make sure that employees:

1. Restrict public access to the area (with caution tape or placards) until clean-up is complete
2. Wear personal protective equipment in accordance with the Exposure Control Plan
3. Place sharp objects that may be contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids (such as broken glass) in a “sharps container” (a puncture-resistant, sealable container) for disposal as medical waste
4. Clean hard surfaces with soap and water, a household bleach solution (1/3 cup of chlorine-based bleach in one gallon water) or a disinfectant registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). See http://www.epa.gov (search for “EPA-registered disinfectants”).
5. Clean personal items and items used in food preparation with soap, water and a household bleach solution, or throw them away if they can’t be cleaned
6. Clean reusable mops and rags with soap, water and a household bleach solution, or throw them away, if they can’t be cleaned
7. Wash hands and all exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water after clean-up
8. Remove personal protective equipment after clean-up and before leaving the work area
9. Decontaminate reusable equipment in accordance with the Exposure Control Plan

Waste Disposal

In accordance with the law, property owners and cleaning contractors must:

1. Dispose of all sharp objects contaminated with blood and bodily fluids by placing them in a sharps container and sealing the container with heavy-duty tape
2. Place other waste inside garbage bags and dispose of as ordinary trash
3. Commercial property owners must contact their waste removal or disposal company for proper hauling and disposal

When disposing of contaminated sharp objects from the home, homeowners must:

1. Place sharp objects in a puncture-resistant container and write “Home Sharps” on the container with a black permanent marker
2. Dispose of the container in the trash once it is packaged safely and labeled correctly
3. Never place loose sharps in the trash and never place sharps containers in the recycling bin

Homeowners can find more information about disposal of bulky items at nyc.gov (search for “bulk”).

Updated 11-24-2014
Hiring a Contractor

Cleaning companies must properly train employees and follow federal regulations that protect employees who work with blood or other bodily fluids. Here are some questions to keep in mind before hiring a company for a trauma scene clean-up:

- Does the company follow the Guidelines for Trauma Scene Management?
- Have employees received bloodborne pathogen training?
- Does the company have an exposure control plan?
- Does the company have a procedure for handling waste after clean-up?

To find a company that is trained in cleaning up trauma scenes, check the yellow pages or the internet for “crime and trauma scene clean-up” or contact the American Bio-Recovery Association (ABRA), a nationwide non-profit association of crime and trauma scene recovery professionals. Visit the website at http://americanbiorecovery.org.

Property owners can apply to the New York Office of Victim Services for compensation (up to $2,500) for out-of-pocket clean-up expenses not covered by insurance or other resources. Call 718-923-4325 for more information. The claim application form and instructions are available in English and Spanish at http://www.ovs.ny.gov/forms.html.
Trauma Scene Clean Up Providers

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Businesses and employers can prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19. All employers need to consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact in their workplace.

Please see the guidance for biomedical waste COVID-19 disposal.

Best Practices for COVID-19 Disposal (240 KB pdf)
(documents/bestpracticesfordisposalletter-耶.pdf)

The following list contains the names of companies that provide trauma scene cleanup services in Florida.

The Florida Department of Health does not regulate the cleanup procedures used by these companies but does permit them as biomedical waste generators and registered as biomedical waste transporters so that they may transport 25 pounds or more of biomedical waste from the trauma scene at a given time. This list is provided as a service by the Department of Health and is not an endorsement of cleanup procedures used by these companies.

Companies listed below without a 4-digit number are not registered to transport biomedical waste. If they are transporting biomedical waste, they are in violation of section 381.0098(5), Florida Statutes.

The list is organized by county and is updated at the request of the company owners only. If you are in need of a cleanup provider and there is not one listed in your county, contact the companies in surrounding areas.

Skip to county: ABCDE H I J MNOPS V

* All links below are external sites that open in a new window.

Alachua

Accident Cleaners & Restoration, LLC
(http://www.accidentcleaners.com) – ID# 7347
Also Serving Counties: North and Central Florida
Address: P.O. Box 945, Williston, FL 32696
(352) 804-3992 or (866) 402-9112

Bio-One (Gainesville)
(http://www.bioonefortlauderdale.com/)
Bio-One (Gainesville) – ID# 7862
Also Serving Counties: Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Suwannee, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Putnam, and Marion
Address: 15202 NW 147 Drive, Suite 1200-161, Alachua, FL, 32615
(352) 378-6003

Dreyer’s DKI
Also Serving Counties: Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Suwannee, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Putnam, and Marion
Address: 15202 NW 147 Drive, Suite 1200-161, Alachua, FL, 32615
(352) 727-0667

SERVPRO of Bay County
(http://www.servprobaycounty.com/) – ID# 7654
Also Serving Counties: Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Holmes,
Jackson, Liberty, Walton, and Washington
Address: P.O. Box 15607, Panama City, FL 32406
(850) 785-1077

Brevard
Florida Trauma Clean
Address: P.O. Box 410114, Melbourne, FL 32941
(321) 480-5464

Trauma Scene Clean-Up of Florida
Address: 1040 A E, Eau Gallie Boulevard, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937
(321) 779-8845 or (888) 779-8845

Broward
(http://www.aftermath.com/A1 Biohazard, LLC ) – ID# 7688
Statewide Service
Address: 3964 NE 5th Avenue, Oakland Park, FL 33334
(954) 419-8331

Advance Medical Sanitation, Inc.
(http://www.amsbiomedical.com/) – ID# 7399
Also Serving Counties: Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach
Address: 10410 SW 16th Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
(954) 447-8999

Aftermath Services, LLC (http://www.aftermath.com/) – ID# 7577
Statewide Service
Address: 1441 SW 12th Avenue, Bay D, Pompano Beach, FL 33069
(305) 341-1047 or (800) 366-9923

Bio-One (Fort Lauderdale)
(https://www.bioonefortlauderdale.com/) – ID# 7799
Also Serving Counties: Dade and Palm Beach
Address: 1314 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 734, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
(954) 303-1669

Crime Scene Intervention, Inc.
(http://crimesceneintervention.com/) – ID# 7393
Address: 1260 NE 27th Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL 33062
(954) 242-9319

Decon Environmental & Engineering Inc.
(http://www.decon.com/) – ID# 7396
Also Serving Counties: Dade and Palm Beach
Address: 2652 NW 31st Avenue, Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311
(954) 485-8800 (24-hour availability)

IPS - International Protective Services – ID# 7327
Also Serving Counties: Dade and Palm Beach
Address: 1714 N. Dixie Highway, Hollywood, FL 33020
(954) 367-5591 or (800) 510-0820 (24-hour availability)

Paul Davis Restoration of Broward (http://broward-county.pauldavis.com) – ID# 7606
Address: 4571 NW 8th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33069
(954) 979-9078

(http://www.scenekleen.net/) Scene Kleen, Inc. – ID# 7274
Also Serving Counties: Dade, Palm Beach, Collier, and Monroe
Address: 1831 S. Dixie Highway, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
(954) 658-1999

(http://www.scenekleen.net/)(Trauma and Crime Scene Cleanup
(https://traumacrcenescenecleanup.com/) – ID# 7834
Also Serving Counties: Dade and Palm Beach
Address: 1308 SW 1 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
(954) 801-7575

United Restoration of FL, LLC
(http://www.unitedrestorationfl.com/)
(http://www.scenekleen.net/) – ID# 7853
Also Serving Counties: Dade and Palm Beach
Address: 2520 N. Powerline Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33069
(954) 979-8500

Citrus
SERVPRO of Citrus County
(http://www.servproofcitruscounty.com/) – ID# 7754
Also Serving Counties: Marion, Sumter, and Levy
Address: P.O. Box 640773, Beverly Hills, FL 34464
(352) 522-1053

Morgan Environmental Enterprises – ID# 7358
Also Serving Counties: Central Florida
Address: 4423 W. Arlington Street, Hernando, FL 34442
(888) 254-1117 or (352) 341-0166

Clay
All County Removal Service – ID# 7733
Also Serving Counties: Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Baker, and Bradford
Address: 351 Crossing Boulevard, Suite 223, Orange Park, FL 32073
(904) 495-6118
Collier

BioRisk Decontamination & Restoration, LLC – ID# 7882
Also Serving Counties: Charlotte, Hendry, Lee, and Monroe
Address: 2710 Brantley Boulevard, Naples, FL 34117
(877) 246-7475

Dade/Miami-Dade

Advance Medical Sanitation, Inc. (http://amsbiomedical.com/) – ID# 7399
Also Serving Counties: Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties
Address: 3387 NW 151st Terrace, Miami Gardens, FL 33054
(305) 428-3767

Bio-One Cutler Bay – ID# 7861
Also Serving Counties: Monroe
Address: 29481 SW 193rd Court, Homestead, FL 33030
(305) 720-6271 or (786) 255-8266

Bio Rescue Corp – ID# 7488
Also Serving Counties: Broward, Martin, Brevard, St. Lucie, Indian River, Palm Beach, and Okeechobee
Address: 10001 SW 159th Court, Miami, FL 33196
(305) 387-3700

BioReponse Corp. (http://www.bioreponsecorp.com) – ID# 7419
Also Serving Counties: Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach
Address: 6290 SW 42nd Terrace, Miami, FL 33155
(305) 972-4577

Otto Ponti, LLC DBA Bio-One North Miami – ID# 7858
Also Serving Counties: Broward, Palm Beach, Orange, Martin, Monroe, Collier, Osceola, Polk, and St. Lucie
Address: 9101 NW 7th Avenue, Miami, FL 33150
(786) 865-8028

Premier Waste Specialists, LLC – ID# 7805
Also Serving Counties: Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, Monroe, Collier, and Lee
Address: 7091 SW 47th Street, Miami, FL 33155
(754) 800-9804 or (305) 970-3184

Sir Clean Corp – ID# 7839
Also Serving Counties: Broward
Address: 1000 5th Street, Miami Beach, FL 33139
(833) 872-5326

Duval

Advanced Bio-Treatment – ID# 7495
Statewide Service
Address: 3524 Southside Boulevard, Suite 8050, Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 625-1980

Aftermath Services, LLC (http://www.aftermath.com/) – ID# 7577
Statewide Service
Address: 10418 New Berlin Road #121, Jacksonville, FL 32226
(800) 366-9923

Airsafe Solutions, Inc. – ID# 7414
Address: 2720 Roselle Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205
(904) 387-9399

Carolyn's Cleaning Service
Also Serving Counties: Nassau, Clay, Baker, Columbia, and Marion
Address: 6322 Ian Chad Drive West, Jacksonville, FL 32244
(904) 302-4771

Herring Cleaning and Restoration – ID# 7851
Also Serving Counties: Baker, Nassau, St. Johns, Putnam, Union, and Clay
Address: 239 Jones Road, Jacksonville, FL 32220
(904) 384-8427

Paul Davis Restoration of North Florida – ID# 7829
Also Serving Counties: Baker, Nassau, and Clay
Address: 2111 N. Liberty Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206
(904) 739-6047

PuroClean Emergency Services (https://www.puroclean.com/services/biohazard-cleanup/) – ID# 7561
Address: 6001 Argyle Forest Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32244
(904) 573-3566

PuroClean Restoration Cleaning – ID# 7567
Address: 12620-3 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246
(904) 821-1620

SERVPRO of Arlington/Jacksonville South – ID# 7683
Address: 1716 Harper Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 721-2230

SERVPRO of Mandarin, Beaches, and St. Augustine
Address: 2205 St. Johns Bluff Road S., Jacksonville, FL 32246
(904) 636-0044
Escambia

All About Painting and Cleaning, Inc. – ID# 7885
Also Serving Counties: Walton, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa
Address: 8941 Pensacola Boulevard, Pensacola, FL 32534
(850) 393-9616

Bio-One (Pensacola) – ID# 7842
Also Serving Counties: Santa Rosa and Okaloosa
Address: 707 E. Cervantes Street, Pensacola, FL 32501
(850) 855-6349

Complete DKI – ID# 7781
Also Serving Counties: Northwest Florida
Address: 511 Wynnehurst Street, Pensacola, FL 32503
(850) 225-5354

SERVPRO of West Pensacola – ID# 7830
Also Serving Counties: Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton
Address: 1101 S. Fairfield Drive, Pensacola, FL 32506
(850) 469-1160

Hillsborough

A Bio Decon – ID# 7692
Also Serving Counties: Central Florida
Address: 11608 Galway Unit 30, Seffner, FL 33584
(813) 728-6688

Aftermath Services, LLC – ID# 7577
Statewide Service
Address: 4302 E. 10th Avenue, Unit 105, Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 329-7707 or (800) 366-9923

Bio Away – ID# 7866
Also Serving Counties: Central Florida
Address: 3271 Bloomingdale Villas, Brandon, FL 33511
(813) 735-7870

H & H Enterprises LLC DBA Service Master 24 Hour – ID# 7418
Address: 7840 Professional Place, Tampa, FL 33637
(813) 623-6111

Puroclean Property Restoration
Also Serving Counties: Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota
Address: 6306 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Tampa, FL 33625
(813) 982-4141

Spaulding Decon, LLC – ID# 7442
Statewide Service
Address: 3615 E. 7 Avenue, Tampa, FL 33634
(866) 99-DECON or (813) 298-7122 or (407) 405-4413 (Orlando)

Lake

Affordable Bio Cleaning – ID# 7806
Statewide Service
Address: 4223 Del Prado Boulevard, Cape Coral, FL 33904
(239) 699-2262

Anytime Biohazard – ID# 7475
Also Serving Counties: Charlotte and Collier
Address: 6306 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Tampa, FL 33625
(813) 329-7707 or (800) 366-9923

Bio-One (Fort Myers) – ID# 7796
Also Serving Counties: Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades
Address: 3120 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 936-1033 or (800) 832-3473

Disaster Clean
Address: 4223 Del Prado Boulevard, Cape Coral, FL 33904
(239) 699-2262

Erickson’s Drying Systems – ID# 7751
Also Serving Counties: Collier and Hillsborough
Address: 12165 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL, Unit #1, 33912
(239) 277-7744

Fireservice Disaster Kleenup – ID# 7160
Address: 3120 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 936-1033 or (800) 832-3473

Lee

ACT Cleaning of Florida – ID# 7838
Statewide Service
Address: 22301 Tuckahoe Road, Alva, FL 33920
(239) 400-9175 or (239) 225-3779

Anytime Biohazard – ID# 7475
Also Serving Counties: Charlotte and Collier
Address: 6306 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Tampa, FL 33625
(813) 329-7707 or (800) 366-9923

Bio-One (Fort Myers) – ID# 7796
Also Serving Counties: Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades
Address: 13650 Fiddlesticks Boulevard, Suite 202-319, Fort Myers, FL, 33912
(239) 464-2263

Disaster Clean
Address: 4223 Del Prado Boulevard, Cape Coral, FL 33904
(239) 699-2262

Erickson’s Drying Systems – ID# 7751
Also Serving Counties: Collier and Hillsborough
Address: 12165 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL, Unit #1, 33912
(239) 277-7744

Fireservice Disaster Kleenup – ID# 7160
Address: 3120 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 936-1033 or (800) 832-3473
Prestridge Bio Clean-Up – ID# 7595
Address: 6136 Hellman Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 245-0994

Spaulding Decon SWFL (https://spauldingdecon.com/) – ID# 7891
Statewide Service
Address: 24311 Production Circle, Unit #1, Bonita Springs, FL, 34134
(239) 356-4499

Leon
Associated Services and Supplies, Inc.
http://www.associatedsvs.com/ – ID# 7386
Address: 3452 Garber Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 681-3148

Levy
Accident Cleaners and Restoration, LLC
http://www.accidentcleaners.com/ – ID# 7347
Also Serving Counties: North and Central Florida
Address: P.O. Box 945, Williston, FL 32696
(352) 804-3992

Manatee
SERVPRO of Bradenton (http://www.servprobradenton.com/) – ID# 7810
Address: 4301 32nd Street W., Suite C-16, Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 792-7715

Marion
BioClean Services of Florida, LLC – ID# 7553
Also Serving Counties: Alachua, Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Levy
Address: 15595 W. Highway 40, Ocala, FL 34481
(352) 848-4918

Complete Bio-Recovery & Odor Removal, LLC – ID# 7790
Also Serving Counties: Citrus and Levy
Address: 137 SW Lombardy Lane, Dunnellon, FL 34431
(352) 533-0343

Martin
Restoration X, LLC DBA Coastal DKI
http://www.coastalki.com/index.html – ID# 7743
Address: 3154 SE Gran Park Way, Stuart, FL 34997
(772) 282-2744

Nassau
Bio-Cycle (http://bio-cycle.com/) – ID# 7402
Address: 1947 Citrona Drive, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 206-2876

Jam N Gin, LLC DBA Bio-One Duval – ID# 7857
Also Serving Counties: Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Bradford, Baker, Putnam, Flagler, and Columbia
Address: 152915 County Road 108, Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 778-5125

Okaloosa
Aftertime Bio Recovery – ID# 7824
Also Serving Counties: Bay, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Walton
Address: 42 Nebraska Avenue, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 428-7982

Orange
ESR-Emergency Services and Reconstruction
http://www.esrfl.com/ – ID# 7379
Address: 1820 S. Division Avenue, Orlando, FL 32805
(407) 422-0144

Osceola
Harmony Environmental, Inc. – ID# 7679
Address: 1404 Hamlin Avenue, Unit J, St. Cloud, FL 34771
(888) 849-0227 / FAX (407) 650-2824

HAV Bioclean Corp. – ID# 7800
Also Serving Counties: Orange, Seminole, Polk, and Brevard
Address: 2358 Ballard Cove Road, Kissimmee, FL 34758
(407) 724-5240

Palm Beach
Bio Waste Tech, Inc. – ID# 7476
Address: 951 28 Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 502-3173 or (866) 250-2230

Rescue Clean 911, LLC (http://www.rescueclean911.com/) – ID# 7809
Also Serving Counties: Dade and Broward
Address: 11134 Alameda Bay Court, Wellington, FL 33414
(833) CLEAN99

Trauma Solutions of South Florida, LLC
Pasco

A Bio Decon – ID# 7692
Also Serving Counties: Central Florida
Address: 2900 Lake Saxon Drive, Land O Lakes, FL 34639
(813) 728-6688

D-N-A Extreme Clean, Inc. – ID# 7432
Also Serving Counties: Hernando, Sumter, and Citrus
Address: 6230 Stone Road, Unit C, Port Richey, FL 34668
(727) 487-3562

SERVPRO of West Pasco and Hernando County
 ALSO SERVING COUNTIES: Pasco and Hernando
Address: 7920 Evies Way, Port Richey, FL 34668
(727) 847-3000

Without a Trace, LLC – ID# 7722
Also Serving Counties: Hillsborough and Pinellas
Address: 2215 Sofia Drive, Lutz, FL 33558
(813) 728-6688

Pinellas

Hazmat Cleanup, LLC – ID# 7814
Also Serving Counties: Hillsborough and Pasco
Address: 936 Lucas Lane, Oldsmar, FL 34677
(727) 330-2970

Polk

Bio Angels, LLC – ID# 7870
Address: 5927 Miss Mary Ann Road, Haines City, FL 33844
(863) 247-1110 or (863) 602-7533

Bio-One (Jacksonville) – ID# 7729
Also Serving Counties: South and Central Florida
Address: 423 Quail Hollow Road, Auburndale, FL 33823
(863) 258-7944

Service Master of Polk County – ID# 7190
Address: 619 McKean Street, Auburndale, FL 33823
(863) 967-5676

Service Master of Polk County – ID# 7596
Address: P.O. Box 205, Highland City, FL 33846
(863) 510-5964

Santa Rosa

Brooks Remediation Corp.
Address: 2561 Cove Road, Navarre, FL 32566
(850) 344-1400

Sarasota

West Coast Services Inc. – ID# 7731
Also Serving Counties: Manatee, Charlotte, Lee, and DeSoto
(941) 315-6860 (24-hour number)

SERVPRO of South Sarasota
Address: 4478 McK Ashton Street, Sarasota, FL 34233
(941) 552-6319

Seminole

Absolute Crime & Trauma Bio Clean, LLC
Address: 895 Palmetto Street, Oviedo, FL 32765
(321) 303-8531

Biohazard Response, Inc. – ID# 7372
Address: 1280 Seminola Boulevard, Casselberry, FL 32707
(407) 862-5552

Hazstat Inc. – ID# 7635
Also Serving Counties: Central Florida
Address: P.O. Box 622063, Oviedo, FL 32762
(855) 429-7828 or (407) 809-5559

SERVPRO of North Seminole/West Volusia
Address: 1980 Dolgner Place, Suite 1000, Sanford, FL 32771
St. Johns
St. Johns Biorecovery – ID# 7478
Address: 1440 San Juan Street, St. Augustine, FL 32080
(904) 721-2230
SERVPRO of Greater St. Augustine/St. Augustine Beach
(http://www.servproporegionstaugustine/staugustinebeach.com/) – ID# 7774
Also Serving Counties: Duval
Address: 1761 Dobbs Road, Unit 106, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 429-4457

St. Lucie
Accident Scene Cleaners
(https://www.accidentscenecleaners.com/) – ID# 7373
Address: 1728 Pondberry Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
(866) 758-2643
Advanced BioRecovery Solutions (http://www.ebiloclean.com/) – ID# 7708
Address: 1669 SE South Niermeyer Circle, Suite 105, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
(800) 830-2465

Sumter
A Neary Biohazard Company (http://www.anbhc.com/) – ID# 7574
Statewide Service
Address: 1849 N. US 301, Sumterville, FL 33585
(393) 404-4882

Volusia
Medical Waste Industries Inc.
(https://www.medicalwasteindustries.com/) – ID# 7678
Also Serving Counties: Flagler
Address: 612 Downing Street, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
(407) 325-4832

Florida Health Across the State
Healthiest Weight Florida
(https://www.healthiestweightflorida.com/)
Tobacco Free Florida
(https://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com)

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Accreditation (/about/accreditation/index.html)
Careers (/about/careers/index.html)
Public Meeting Notices (/about/sunshine-info/public-meeting-notices/index.html)
Public Notices (/about/sunshine-info/public-notices/index.html)
Public Records Requests (/about/sunshine-info/public-records-requests/index.html)
State Health Improvement Plan (/about/state-and-community-health-assessment/ship-process/index.html)
Annual Regulatory Plans—Florida Department of Health (/documents/annual-regulatory-plan-fdh.pdf)
Annual Regulatory Plans—Boards (/documents/annual-regulatory-plan-boards.pdf)
Certificates (/certificates/index.html)
Birth Certificates (/certificates/certificates/birth/index.html)
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Divorce Certificates (/certificates/certificates/divorce/index.html)
Marriage Certificates (/certificates/certificates/marriage/index.html)