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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);
(480)433-9551 (cell)

Sure-Way Systems, Inc. of Phoenix to Pay \$39,000 Penalty to Resolve Medical Waste Transport and Registration Violations

PHOENIX (Oct. 27, 2009) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General’s Office announced today that a Montana-based biohazardous medical waste business with an office in Phoenix has agreed to pay a \$39,000 penalty under a consent judgment for transport and registration violations of state statutes during 2007 and 2008.

Sure-Way Systems, Inc. received a Notice of Violation from ADEQ’s Solid Waste Inspections and Compliance Unit in November 2007 after an investigation at a Tucson auto-repair shop found an inoperable Sure-Way vehicle with its cargo door open and waste medical sharps inside. Biohazardous medical waste was stored inside the vehicle for at least a month without refrigeration.

An ADEQ inspection at Milum Textile Service in Phoenix in February 2008, where Sure-Way was also operating and storing records, found that Sure-Way transported 20 loads of biohazardous medical waste from April 29, 2007 through June 20, 2007 before submitting its registration to ADEQ.

In addition, 10 cases were documented in which Sure-Way stored medical waste more than 24 hours without refrigeration before delivering the waste to a medical facility.

“Their lax handling of potentially dangerous biohazardous medical waste put people at risk but the company has stepped up and improved the way it does business,” ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

"Any company handling medical waste needs to rigorously comply with state regulations. These violations could easily have had serious consequences," Attorney General Terry Goddard said.

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.