

Hospital waste found near canal not infectious, says disposal firm

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Hospital waste found dumped near a canal in Nonthaburi is not infectious, said the managing director of Krungthep Thanakhom, a garbage disposal firm hired by the city, yesterday.

"Initial investigation showed the waste comprised largely of general rubbish, such as syringe boxes and some documents. It was not dangerous hospital

waste as reported earlier," Amorn Kit-chawengkul said.

The firm sent an investigation team to Phra Nangklao Hospital where the waste, wrapped in 16 black plastic bags, was kept before it was eventually destroyed by incineration. The waste came from Ramathibodi Hospital.

Mr Amorn said his company was responsible only for dangerous hospital waste which must be stuffed into red

plastic bags, not black ones. The company is hired to dispose of dangerous waste from all hospitals and other health-care establishments in Bangkok at 7,900 baht per tonne.

Akdej Homsesthi, deputy chief of the Public Cleansing Department, said since the city administration absorbed all hospital waste treatment costs, there was no reason any hospital should dump its refuse anywhere else.