

ASU Environmental Health and Safety

Needlestick and Sharps Training



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ASU Environmental Health and Safety

This quick reference guide is not a substitute for required training:

ASU Biosafety and Bloodborne Pathogen Training

Sharps training

Sharps

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- What are sharps?
 - Importance of sharps safety.
 - Sharps disposal.
 - Do not recap.
 - Emergency response.

What are sharps?

Sharps are objects that can penetrate the skin. Examples include:

- Blades.
- Broken glass.
- Coverslips.
- Hypodermic needles.
- Pasteur pipettes.
- Pipette tips.

Sharps safety

Careful handling of contaminated sharps can prevent injury and reduce the risk of infection.

- An accident or injury involving a contaminated sharp can result in an infection with a human immunodeficiency virus or bloodborne pathogen.
- The [ASU Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Program](#) specifies measures to reduce these types of injuries and the risk of infection.

Sharps disposal

- Never reach into a sharps container.
- Place all used sharps directly into a designated sharps container.
- Sharps containers must be leak-proof, puncture-resistant and labeled with the biohazard symbol or Biohazard.

Do not recap

Never recap a needle.

- Recapping increases the likelihood of exposure to a pathogen through a needlestick.
- Use sharps with built-in safety features or needleless systems when possible.

Finding needles on campus

You may find needles on campus, at work and in restrooms.

If you find a needle:

1. Consider needles a hazard.
2. Do not pick it up or touch it.
3. Notify others in the area about the hazard.
4. Report needle location to ASU EHS.

Understand needle hazards

Before you begin:

1. Always consider needles hazardous.
2. Complete lab-specific training.
3. Wear a lab coat, eye protection and gloves.

Understand needle hazards

During your experiment:

- Follow lab-specific procedures.
- Maintain attention to safety.
- Point needles away.
- Stay refreshed and take breaks.

Understand needle hazards

After use:

- Never recap needles.
- Only dispose of needles in sharps containers.

[Learn how to respond to a needle stick.](#)

Emergency response

A needle or sharps injury may occur in a laboratory or on campus.

- A quick response reduces the risk of serious illness.
- Hazardous chemicals or infectious materials present on the sharp or in the syringe may cause secondary health effects.

Emergency response

Step 1:

- Immediately encourage bleeding at the puncture site.
- Flush the area with warm water for 10 minutes.
- Water removes pathogens from the wound and washes contaminants away from the bloodstream.

Emergency response

Step 2:

- Wash the wound.
- Gently clean puncture site with soap and water. **Do not** to scrub excessively to create additional injury.
- If splashed on the skin, wash well with soap and water. If splashed in the eyes, nose or mouth rinse with water.

Emergency response

Step 3:

- Dry and cover the wound.
- Use sterile materials to dry and cover the wound such as prepackaged gauze from a first aid kit.

Emergency response

Step 4:

- Seek immediate medical attention.
- Some medications must be given within hours of exposure to have the best effect. A blood test may also be necessary to determine further treatment.

Emergency response

Step 5:

- Report the incident to your supervisor.
- Explain what happened and discuss possible concerns.

Step 6: Fill out the online ASU Needlestick Injury Log.

Step 6:

- Fill out the online ASU Needlestick Injury Log.
- All needlesticks must be entered into the online ASU Needlestick Injury Log.

Emergency response

Step 7:

- Fill out the workers compensations claim forms.
- These forms **must** be completed within 48 hours after the incident. Consult with your unit's Business Operations Manager for assistance.
- Access the online [Incident Report Form](#).

Emergency response

Step 8:

- Follow-up testing and medical supervision of recovery.
- If requested by your healthcare provider, get tested at required intervals as to assist in detecting any infection.

Resources

[Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#)

[Needle stick safety video](#)

[Sharps safety video](#)

Questions and more information

Email [ASU Environmental Health and Safety](#) or call 480-965-1823.

Call ASU Health Services 480-965-3346.

Visit the ASU EHS webpage to review [ASU's Exposure Control Plan](#).