Needlestick and Sharps Training
This quick reference guide is not a substitute for required training:

ASU Biosafety and Bloodborne Pathogen Training
Sharps training

Sharps

- 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.
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.
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.
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.

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• All needlesticks must be entered into the online ASU Needlestick Injury Log.
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.