

# HSEQ Bulletin

18 August-2015 – No. 15/10

## Hypodermic Needle found near work site

Whilst conducting air monitoring activities at the Connell Road monitoring station a hypodermic needle was discovered adjacent the compound fence. The needle was removed from its location in the recommended and safe manner. This bulletin is to remind everyone what process should be undertaken if you find a hypodermic needle.



What do we need to do?

1. Protect/mark the area to prevent damage and to highlight the location of the syringe.
2. Call for assistance (Supervisors, HSEQ); tell them to bring gloves and a sharps container.
3. Put latex or vinyl gloves on. This is not for needle stick prevention; it creates a clean barrier between your hand and the syringe.
4. Take the sharps container to the syringe.
5. Place the container on the ground next to the syringe.

6. Pick up the syringe by the middle of the barrel.
7. Place the syringe in the container sharp end first.
8. Secure the lid of the container, hold the top of the container when carrying.
9. Remove gloves carefully so as contaminated fluid doesn't come into contact with your hand.
10. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

It is advised practice to handle syringes in this way as it maintains good dexterity while handling them, and the shortest amount of time 'in hand'.

If you have any concerns dealing with syringes you may find on site please contact the MWPA HSEQ team who will assist you with the safe and effective disposal of them.

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