



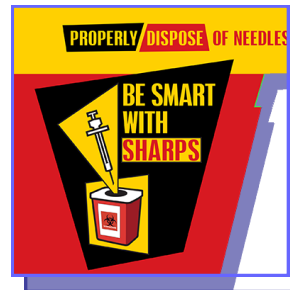
Sharps Safety

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 62% to 88% of sharps injuries can be prevented simply by using safer medical devices. Researchers should always consider what is needed to safely handle any sharps that are used and identify the different scenarios when a sharps injury can occur. By identifying when a sharps injury can occur, it makes it simpler to evaluate planned activities and reduce the likelihood of sharps injuries.

When do sharps injuries occur?

Puncture injuries occur at five different times:

- Before use
- During use
- After use and before disposal
- During or after disposal
- As a result of improper disposal



What is the proper disposal method for sharps? Sharps disposal is extremely important. Lab personnel as well as non-laboratory workers can be injured by sharps that are not disposed of properly. This can present a very serious hazard. For example, leaving razor blades on the floor in the cold room or discarding syringes with needles into the regular trash can present a risk to any housekeeping personnel that maybe responsible for cleaning these areas. Sharps must be placed into a sharps container for disposal.

Are there any requirements for sharps containers? According to OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, a sharps container must meet the following requirements:

1. Closeable
2. Puncture Resistant
3. Rigid
4. Leak-proof
5. Appropriately labeled and color coded

Is it ok to have a few sharps containers for the entire lab? Sharps containers **must** be available at the point of use to dispose of any sharps devices that are used in the area. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that a sharp is placed into the sharps container after use. Additionally, researchers must ensure that sharps containers are easily accessible to the immediate area of use (this includes dark-rooms and cold rooms).

When must a sharps container be replaced? The sharps container should be used until the container is 3/4th full. At that time, the sharps container should be closed and taped securely. The sharps container should then be placed inside of the Stericycle box.

Are there any safe needle device options in addition to the traditional syringe? Labs are encouraged to evaluate and purchase safer sharps devices as a method to reduce sharps injuries. A safer sharps device can prevent an injury by covering or isolating the sharp directly after use. There are safety scalpels, self-sheathing needles, retractable needles, and blunt tip syringes. All of these items are designed to reduce the likelihood of sharps injuries.

Training

Most of EHSO's Trainings are available online. ehso.emory.edu

Rad Safety Training
2nd Tuesdays at
10:00am (monthly)

Lab Safety Training
3rd Thursdays at
10:00am (monthly)

Chemical/ Radioactive Waste

[Full Schedule here...](#)

All **chemical** waste pick up should be requested by emailing chemwaste@emory.edu

All **radioactive** waste pick up should be requested via EHS Assist pick-up.

Chemical waste disposal inventory form and/or **radioactive** waste inventory form should accompany all waste containers at the time of pick-up.

PPE

Choice to be based on potential exposures involved:

Eye: Glasses, goggles & face shields

Gloves: Appropriate for the type of procedure

Clothing: Gowns, lab coats, aprons, coveralls

Respirators: Appropriate for the type of procedure

Sharps Safety (con't)

Are there any other tips on preventing sharps injuries in the lab?

It is the consistent practice of safe behavior that helps prevent accidents and minimizes exposure to contaminated sharps. Lab personnel can protect themselves by taking the following precautions:

- * Wearing appropriate PPE at all times
- * Keeping sharps pointed away from the user and others
- * Double gloving
- * Checking the work area for sharps before leaving (bench tops, lab coats, fume hoods, biological safety cabinets)
- * No needle recapping (if a procedure requires you to re-cap a needle, refer to EHSO's Sharps Guidelines for safe alternatives)
- * Never put hands or fingers inside sharps containers
- * Evaluate/utilize safer sharps devices
- * Know what to do in the event of an accidental needle stick



Use of Needle Recapping Device

Reducing the risk of injury in the workplace is the responsibility of the user by ensuring that sharps are handled appropriately, stored correctly, and disposed properly. Safety is everyone's responsibility. For additional information on sharps safety, review EHSO's Sharps Guidelines (<http://www.ehso.emory.edu/>)

How to Report Work Related Accidents and Incidents

Although lab personnel make an effort to work as safely as possible, work-related injuries and incidents do occur. Work-related incidents can include needle sticks, animal bites, animal scratches, slips, trips, and falls. Work-related illness can include headaches, dizziness, nausea, sinusitis or other symptoms. It's important that lab personnel know what to do in the event of a work related injury or illness.

How Do You Report a Work Incident?

1. Perform first aid or decontaminate the affected area using the eyewash station, emergency shower, or sink (as appropriate).
2. Seek Medical Attention immediately at Employee Health Services or the nearest Emory Emergency Department (if emergency medical attention is necessary or Employee Health Services is unavailable).
3. All work incidents (major or minor) must be reported to Occupational Injury Management (OIM). Emory employees are required to complete an incident report using Self Service through Emory Peoplesoft. The incident report must be completed as soon as possible after the incident or injury occurs.

For additional information regarding workplace injuries and illnesses, contact the OIM at 404-686-8589.

Please Read—

Signature indicates: I have read and I understand the information in this issue of Lab Rat Newsletter. Use an additional sheet of paper for more signatures, if needed and attach to this document.

- This newsletter is a tool to help fulfill a legal requirement for ongoing safety training.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that individuals in their area have read and understood the information that applies to their area.
- The signed newsletter should be placed into the PIs EHSO Lab Safety Binder.

Signature Here

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Eye Wash Testing

Eyewash Stations should be tested and documented once a month by lab personnel

Certifications

Biosafety Cabinets, Geiger Meters and Chemical Fume Hoods:

Certifications are required annually.

Fire Extinguishers

Visual fire extinguisher inspections must be conducted monthly:

- A. Is it present and mounted in its proper location?
- B. Is it readily accessible?
- C. Initial and date attached tag.

If it appears to need servicing contact the Maintenance HELP line at 7-7463

Tell us how we are doing!

The newsletter has a new home. Every individual article is now hosted online at blogs.emory.edu/labratnews/

Got something to share? [Tell us!](#) Post comments, related articles/links, and safety concerns.

Feel free to also send your comments to bi-osafe@emory.edu.

We look forward to reading your ideas and comments!

Building Liaisons

[Click here](#) to find your building's Radiation and Research liaisons.