



TOOLBOX TALKS

Reddan Contractors, 438 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2QA

Tel: 01702 616061

Email: helpdesk@reddan.co.uk

Toolbox Talk Details		
Title	B03 - Needlestick injuries	
Reason	It is possible that you will find a used hypodermic syringe or needle on a site at some time. You need to know what to do if you accidentally prick your skin, as you could become infected with a serious disease.	
Outline	This talk covers the actions you should take if you discover a needle and if you puncture your skin with it.	
If you find a needle		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It has probably been used by a drug user and may be contaminated with infected blood.2. Do not touch it or move it.3. Leave a responsible person to safeguard it while you report the matter to your supervisor.4. If you have a site nurse, they should be informed.5. If you do not have a nurse on site, the local Environmental Health Department should be informed.6. If a needle or syringe must be moved:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- if possible, bring the sharps bin to the sharp, always avoid carrying sharps to the bin- use suitable PPE such as sharps gloves and suitable plastic tongs or grabbers, Avoid using pliers or similar tools with steel jaws- do not wrap it in paper or put it into a litter bin- if available, ideally place it in a sharps bin, otherwise place it in a clear glass bottle or jar- dispose of it safely through the site nurse, local police or Environmental Health Department- wash your hands thoroughly.		
If you prick your skin		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do not panic.2. Gently squeeze the area around the wound to encourage bleeding.3. Do not suck the wound.4. Wash the site of the injury thoroughly with soap and water at the first opportunity.5. Obtain medical assistance as soon as possible from either the site nurse or the nearest hospital with an accident and emergency department. If you can do so safely, take the syringe or needle with you.6. If dealt with properly and promptly, the risks of a resulting health problem are minimal.7. Think about the consequences of not acting promptly.		
Revision Date	Assessed By	Signature
January 2021	Michael Reddan	