

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

BIOHAZARD EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN SAFE REMOVAL OF SHARPS (NEEDLES) AT SCHOOL DISTRICT 69 SITES

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Purpose

SD69 Employees and volunteers have a responsibility to report to their site supervisor or designate any discarded sharps/needles encountered on the school grounds and surrounding area of the site. This is to ensure that the students, employees and public are not placed at risk by coming into contact with such objects. After reporting the sharp/needle to supervisor, a call is to be placed to the Operations Department (250-248-2067).

It will generally be the responsibility of the Operations Department to pick up and dispose of such hazardous items; however, in an emergent situation where it is determined that the sharp/needle needs to be removed immediately, the supervisor (if trained in Sharps removal protocols) may remove the sharp/needle using the school Bio-Hazardous Materials Kit following the steps outlined below.

Schools and worksites are to follow these sharp/needle handling procedures and have the proper Sharps Container, protective equipment and understanding before attempting to pick up a sharp/needle.

Follow these steps to pick up improperly discarded sharps/needles and other items that could carry HIV, the Hepatitis B and C viruses as well as residual drugs (i.e. fentanyl):

1. Secure the location so that students, staff or public do not have access to the area
2. Retrieve a Bio-Hazardous Materials Kit from the office or first aid room and get the disposable waterproof gloves and a proper sharps container ready.
3. Put the gloves on. **DO NOT** pick-up the sharp/needle with your hands even while wearing the disposable waterproof gloves.
4. Place the Sharps Container next to the sharp/needle or other bio-hazardous item; **DO NOT** hold the container in your hand or you might accidentally jab yourself.
5. Use the tongs provided in the kit to pick up the sharp/needle (or other hazardous item) and place it in to the Sharps Container with the pointed end first and away from you. **DO NOT** insert your fingers into the opening of the container and keep your free hand out of the way.
6. If more than one sharp/needle or bio-hazardous item is found at a time, you may use the same disposable container.
7. Remove and discard the gloves and wash your hands with soap and water or with the antiseptic wipes available in the kit.
8. Once your kit has been used it must be properly disposed of by the Operations & Maintenance Department
9. They will provide a new kit when they pick up the used kit for disposal.
10. The employee removing the sharp/needle is to file a report (including the location where the sharp/needle or bio-hazardous item was found) with the Site Safety Committee.

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A Bio-Hazardous Materials Kit includes:

- A proper Sharps Container
- Disposable waterproof gloves
- Small blue disposable tongs
- Antiseptic wipes
- The sharps/needles handing procedures.



These one-time-use kits are to be made be available in the office at each SD69 facility.