

Environment, Health and Safety Hazard Alert

Title: Needlestick with biohazard

Audience: Laboratory PIs and Personnel

Incident Summary:

The day prior to the incident, a student decanted materials, including sharps, from two over-filled yellow containers into a third yellow container. On the day of the incident, the student received a needlestick injury through their shoe to their foot. The student was exposed to a needle potentially containing *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Investigation Findings:

- Two Yellow Biomedical Waste Containers were over-filled for at least a period of several days.
- Kim wipes contaminated with mouse blood were a large portion of the material in the containers.

Actions Taken:

- Development of a business case to examine provision of appropriate sharps containers by University
- Assignment of personnel to ensure sufficient containers are available in the lab
- Enforcement of, and emphasis on, training requirements

Key Takeaways:

- Responsibilities for waste disposal must be assigned
- Waste container-specific procedures must be followed at all times
- Waste containers must not be over-filled

Additional Resources:

- [Biosafety Program](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Disposal Manual](#)

