

Wilton Fire Department

Safety Bulletin

This bulletin is in regards to safe handling of Sharps.

Today Station 81s crew found an unsecured needle protruding out of the sharps compartment on the ALS bag on Engine 81. This bulletin is to stress the importance of properly securing sharps after their use. You all know the ramifications if you were to be stuck by a needle in any condition.

Members handling sharps need to follow a couple of steps to ensure that the sharps have been secured properly.

1. Handle the sharp from the dull (non pointy) end at all times.
2. Hold the sharp over the opening to the sharps container sharp (pointy end) end down and drop it in. Never force the sharp into the sharps container. If the sharp will not drop in freely, obtain a new sharps container and follow these same steps. If a new sharps container is not available secure sharps in the on-scene medic if possible.
3. Make sure to **visualize** the sharp going into the sharps container. And check to make sure nothing made it into the compartment the sharps container is stored in.
4. Make sure the lid to the sharps container remains closed at all times.

Last, during daily checks do a quick visual inspection of any piece of ALS bags/equipment to make sure nothing harmful is protruding that may injure you before handling.

Rob Henkens, Safety Officer

Remember, We are all Safety Officers!
Be Safe!