

# SAFETY LESSONS LEARNT BULLETIN

## Hidden hazards in chambers

Issued: July 2020

Sharps injury sustained when inspecting chamber I.D. Tag by Nottinghamshire DST

### Information sharing:

The IP has attended a proactive valve inspection the first job of his shift and he experienced a sharps injury from a hypodermic needle located in the chamber. He reached in to check the ID tag and it punctured his middle finger on his left hand. He was wearing purple nitrile disposable gloves at the time of the incident.

He immediately encouraged bleeding from the wound and washed warm water, covered with a clean dry plaster.

He then managed to remove the sharp from the chamber carefully using a sharps kit so another worker would not suffer the same consequence as him and this also enabled the hospital to carry out further tests on the sharp for viruses Etc.

He reported the incident to another line manager (his line manager was on annual leave).

He continued to work for the rest of the day and attended Casualty Dept with the sharps that caused the injury (for testing) once his shift had finished.

He's now waiting on the results and any next steps the hospital put in place.



### Key messaging:

- Always use a torch when inspecting a valve cover or any recesses with poor visibility prior to inserting your hands
- Before putting your hands near anything that you cannot clearly see, use a rake/scoop to clear away scrub, long grass or litter.
- Remember, PPE is the last line of defence – you must carry out the previous precautions to reduce the risk. If you are regularly coming in to contact with sharps where you work, puncture resistant gloves are available for you to use
- Go directly to a Casualty Dept within 4 hours, with the sharps that caused the injury if possible and practical (for testing)
- Having these sort of injuries can be very worrying, You can access our **Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)** for free, and it's confidential too. The user name you'll need is: **stwell**. The number is: **0800 111 6387**. You'll get help, advice and support on any concerns you may have and provide helpful advice on what steps to take next.



The small portable sharps handling kits shown above are available to order through the Regional Warehouses (Stores)

Key contact: Gary Marvelley

Or your local HSW Technical Expert

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