



# SAFETY ALERT

## Campus Incident—Sharps Injury

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

**Date:** February 2016  
**Category:** Sharps  
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### Description

While emptying a recycling container, a custodial associate was stuck in the thumb by a syringe that had been improperly disposed. The syringe, which was used in a lab to transfer chemicals (e.g. ethers or alcohols), stuck the employee through the bag and nitrile glove. The employee received first aid treatment and a medical evaluation.

### Causes

- Improper materials inadvertently disposed of in recycling container.
- Proper sharps disposal practices were not followed.

### Corrective Actions

- Provide additional sharps containers closer to lab hoods.
- Dispose of sharps in appropriate sharps containers.
- Dispose of lab waste in appropriate waste containers.
- Review sharps practices to ensure lab practices match [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) requirements.

Recycling container (shown below) contained items that were improperly disposed of (e.g., syringes, gloves and other items).

