

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

## General Information

According to the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), over 80 percent of farm workers and 73 percent of swine veterinarians have accidentally stuck themselves with a needle. Needlestick injuries are usually minor but can become serious. With simple precautions, needlestick injuries can be avoided.



## Preventive Measures

- Ensure proper training of employees on the safe use and disposal of needles.
- Modify work practices that have an increased risk of needlestick injury.
- Ask for assistance when restraining animals.
- Slow down and do not rush injections.
- Use proper equipment and techniques. Consider using safety needles.
- Use an appropriate sharps container. Do not use food or beverage containers.
- Label the container “Sharps – Do not recycle” to warn of the needlestick hazard.
- Keep the sharps container nearby so that sharps can be disposed of immediately.
- Replace dull needles.

## Safety tips when working with needles

- Do not recap needles.
- Do not put needle caps in your mouth.
- Discard all unusable needles; do not try to straighten them.
- Do not keep needles (used or unused) in your pocket.

## If You Get Stuck:

- Stop what you are doing.
- Immediately wash the wound with soap and water.
- Report the injury to your supervisor.
- Contact your health care provider.

Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Participants:

Source: <http://umash.umn.edu/>