



MIDDLESEX-LONDON PARAMEDIC SERVICE LOGISTICS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



VEHICLE SHARPS CONTAINERS

Sharps containers have been placed in areas where there is enough clearance for both installation and removal of the disposable containers, as well as ease of access to physically deposit sharps. Sharps containers will be located in the patient compartment of the ambulance and in the paramedic equipment bags. Sharps containers will be identified by a Biohazard logo and must be kept separate from other waste.

Replacement containers are stored at all ambulance bases.

- Sharps containers are not to be broken open to remove sharps.
- Any damage to the vehicle sharps container holding bracket must be reported immediately.
- The sharps container is not to be used for liquid waste such as blood soaked dressings or used gloves.
- Always use Nitrile gloves when dealing with sharps.
- Once the sharps container is **half- full**, the container must be disposed of in accordance with the following:
 1. Close and secure the sharps container according to the directions specific to the model of container used. Do not reopen the container once it has been secured in a closed position.
 2. Replenish with a new replacement sharps container as appropriate.
 3. The sealed sharps container will be placed into a bio-hazard yellow bag and then in to the red bio-hazard bins located in the designated location (fridge).
 4. Once the bag is full tie bag and close bin.
 5. The sharps containers will be ready for pick-up by an outside contractor (Steri-Cycle) for disposal.