NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN INFECTED WITH HIV OR HEPATITIS C FROM BEING POKED BY AN ABANDONED NEEDLE.
(BC CENTER FOR EXELLENCE IN HIV/AIDS)

IF YOU GET POKED...

1. **DON'T PANIC!**

2. **WASH** the wound gently with soap and water, but don't squeeze or suck it. Cover with a band-aid.

3. **GO** to your nearest hospital emergency room as soon as possible to ensure proper care.

You can dispose of recovered needles in the trash or bring them to AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI) or to a Vancouver Island Health Authority health unit.

AVI offers free safer needle handling workshops for schools, daycares, workplaces, and other community groups.

For more information:

1-800-665-2437
info@avi.org

AVI LOCATIONS

| Victoria	Nanaimo	Courtenay
1601 Blanshard St.	201-55 Victoria Rd.	355 6th St.
Victoria, BC, V8W 2J5	Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5N9	Courtenay, BC, V9N 1M2
Ph: (250) 384-2366	Ph: (250) 753-2437	Ph: (250) 753-2437
Duncan	Campbell River	Port Hardy
Ph: (250) 701-3667	1249 Ironwood Rd.	Ph: (250) 949-0432
	Campbell River, BC, V9R 5N9	
	Ph: (250) 830-0787	
	1-877-650-8787	

SAFE RECOVERY
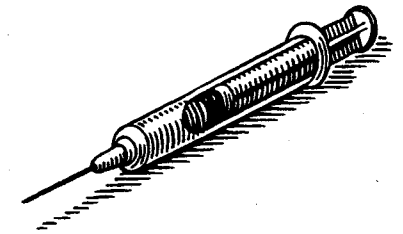
HANDLING ABANDONED NEEDLES SAFELY

AIDS Vancouver Island

HOW TO PICK UP A NEEDLE SAFELY...

1. PICK UP

the needle with the sharp end pointing away from you. Bare hands work fine; if you wear gloves, make sure they fit snuggly.
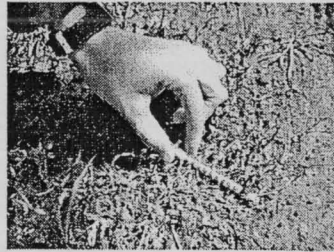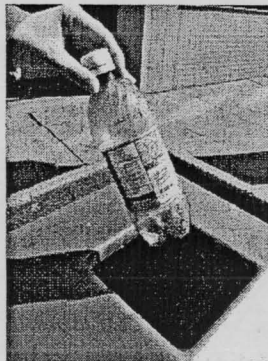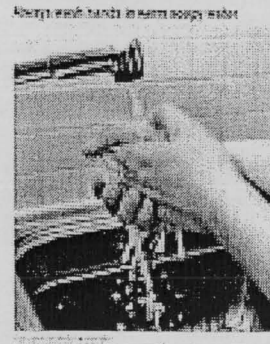
2. PLACE

a hard plastic container on the ground and carefully insert the needle **point down** into the container and close the lid.

3. DISCARD the container in the trash or bring it to AVI or a health unit.

4. WASH your hands thoroughly.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Make sure you can clearly see any needles you pick up.

- Hands work better than tongs or other instruments, which can be clumsy.

- Pick up the needle with ONE hand, with a secure grip on the middle or plunger end of the barrel.

- Take your time!

- NEVER re-cap a needle—you may accidentally poke yourself!

- NEVER use your hands to search through leaves or garbage. Use your feet (in thick shoes) or a long stick to spread rubbish out, making it easier to see needles.