

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 24-14	Document Reference: RSS/F/HSQE/001
	Discovery of Hypodermic Needles in Troughing Route	Issue Date: 26/08/14	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

Background

On the 13th August Siemens Installers were recovering some redundant cables at St Helens Central Station on the SBH Lines. During the recovery works, the team found Hypodermic needles embedded in the troughing route where they had clearly been placed to cause harm.



Needles



Area sprayed to highlight needles

Action Taken:

The team sprayed the area to highlighted the hazard and the Siemens Supervisor reported the discovery through to Route and Fault Control.

Preventative Measures

- Wear barrier cream / disposable gloves where possible
- Encourage bleeding by gently 'milking' the wound but do not suck the wound
- Wash the wound with soap under running water and dry with disposable towel/paper towel
- Protect broken skin using a waterproof dressing
- Seek immediate advice from a GP or A&E Department

Preventative Procedure

- Be aware of all kinds of discarded sharps, including; syringes, needles, razors, etc and that they may be carelessly or maliciously discarded
- Check pit lids and chambers before commencing work in these areas, as these are ideal areas to hide / dispose of needles
- Do not put your unprotected hands into areas where you cannot see, e.g. soil, drains, etc.
- If needles are discovered on-site, do not attempt to remove the objects
- Contact the council, (or Route Control whilst on the Rail Infrastructure) who are equipped to deal with clearing up and disposing of needles
- Inform your supervisor and leave site, until the offending items have been removed

Briefing Requirements

This brief should be briefed to all Siemens Staff and their Sub Contractors, be displayed on your local EHS Notice Board and be attached to the COSS Briefing Pack where similar works are taking place.

