

## **DISCARDED NEEDLES/SYRINGES: STEPS FOR SAFE HANDLING**

Falmouth Fire Headquarters located at 399 Main St is a disposal site for used or discarded Hypodermic syringes. Syringes can be brought to Fire headquarters in a rigid, puncture-resistant, sealable container and disposed of in the provided disposal container. If you are uncomfortable handling syringes please notify the DPW at (508) 457-2543 and inform them of the location of the syringe and a representative will be dispatched to the location for collection. The DPW is available for syringe collection Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 3:30. For nights and weekends please notify the Falmouth Police Department at (508) 457-2527 for collection.

**For the safe handling of Hypodermic syringes please follow these guidelines:**

**Step 1:** Put on disposable latex or vinyl gloves (if available). Gloves will not prevent the wearer from being injured but will form a clean barrier between the hands and the syringe.

**Step 2:** Bring a rigid, puncture-resistant, sealable container to the syringe. (example: Soda bottle with a twist off cap)

**Step 3:** Place the container on the ground or flat surface beside the syringe.

**Step 4:** Pick up the syringe by the **middle** of the barrel.

**Note:** Do not use a dustpan & brush to “sweep up” the syringe as the sweeping movement can cause the syringe to flick into the air and cause further risk.

**Step 5:** Place the syringe in the container sharp end first.

**Step 6:** Securely place the lid on the container and ensure it is sealed.

**Step 7:** Remove gloves and wash hands with soap and water.

**Step 8:** Bring syringe to the disposal site at Falmouth Fire Headquarters and dispose of it in the provided container.