

City of Portland Maine
Public Safety / Health and Human Services Committee Meeting
July 8, 2014 at 5:30pm
Room 209 at City Hall

1. Public Health Division Update
More information coming soon
2. Graffiti Update
More information coming soon
- 2.I. Public Services Update On Graffiti

Documents: [PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATE ON GRAFFITI.PDF](#)

3. Needle Disposal Program Update

Documents: [NEEDLE DISPOSAL PROGRAM UPDATE.PDF](#)

4. Downtown Public Safety Update
More information coming soon

5. Motorcycle Noise Briefing

Documents: [MOTORCYCLE NOISE BRIEFING.PDF](#)



Michael J. Bobinsky
Director of Public Services

To: Public Safety Committee

From: Michael J. Bobinsky, Director of Public Services

Date: July 8, 2014

Subject: Graffiti Responses by the Department of Public Services

The Department has been responding to graffiti tags when reported or when observed by City personnel working with our Districting teams, and/or our Portland Downtown District (PDD) unit. Our focus on clean up response has been on public property including signs, traffic control boxes, mail boxes, light poles, granite bollards, planters, benches and bus shelters. City crews use graffiti removal material when detected and coordinate with Learning Works on large areas damaged and or at locations that are inaccessible with existing City equipment.

The Department has responded to 526 incidents of graffiti tags on public property since the graffiti ordinance was adopted and the Department began recording work requests to clean up graffiti on public property. In addition, to our PDD crews responding to graffiti tags on public property, they also work closely with Trish McAllister on unique or large scale tags that may be related to gang activity photos are taken and shared with the Police Department for further investigations prior to clean up efforts.

Cc: Mark Rees, City Manager
Trish McAllister, Corporation Counsel
Marc Spiller, District Coordinator



Executive Office
Sheila Hill-Christian, Deputy City Manager

July 1, 2014

Councilor Ed Suslovic, Chair
Public, Safety, Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Update - Program for the Disposal of Sharps

Per our previous discussion during the May meeting of the PSHHS Committee we have continued to coordinate and refine our approach for the creation of a city wide sharps disposal program. If you recall, our goal is to provide for the proper disposal of sharps found on private property and publicly owned spaces. In developing the program we have incorporated the following components: 1. Public information brochure and one number to call. 2. Neighborhood cleanup assistance. 3. Data collection. 4. City staff training. 5. Public information.

1. Brochure/One number to call – See attached brochure. The attached brochure serves as a guide for the collection and disposal of sharps for personal use and on private property. Brochures will be available and ready for distribution by July 1, 2014.

Please note that upon further discussion with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) it was determined that utilizing their 800 number was not a viable option. DEP does not provide the collection services we need. As an alternative, we will utilize the Department of Public Services dispatch number (207)874-8493. DPS will dispatch staff within one to two hours. When DPS staff are unable to respond within that time frame they will contact Fire/EMS dispatch at 109 Middle Street. Fire personnel will respond within an hour or less. Should any calls come directly to Fire/EMS dispatch, Fire personnel will respond.

2. Neighborhood Clean-up Assistance - Mike Murray will schedule a briefing regarding sharps disposal at his next scheduled meeting with the neighborhood associations. Mike will share the brochures, and that he is the contact for scheduling Fire and Portland Exchange staff to assist with neighborhood cleanups. These staff will be available to assist with a brief orientation regarding the proper method for sharps disposal. Fire personnel will also be onsite to assist with sharps collection at neighborhood cleanups.
3. Data Collection - All operations departments that may potentially collect and dispose of sharps found on public property have been notified to contact DPS dispatch regarding date, location and number of sharps found. In addition, at the end of each month Fire and Emergency Services dispatch will forward all data collected regarding any calls they received to Public Services dispatch. This information will be shared with the Director of Health and Human Services for quarterly reporting to the PSHHS committee. At the end of 12 months of data collection the program will be reviewed to determine next steps and any required changes to include assessing the need for an outside collection vendor.

4. Fire personnel will work with department heads to ensure the appropriate staff is trained in the proper collection of sharps.
5. Brochures will be distributed to various locations city wide and information regarding the sharps collection program will be posted on the City's website. In addition, the Public Health department received funding from the State to produce three 30-second PSA's. Our plan is to create one PSA regarding safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs, another regarding safe needle disposal including the new number to call if you find needles and the third regarding tips for parents in communicating with their teens about these issues.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Cc: Councilor John Coyne
Councilor Cheryl Leeman
Councilor Jill Duson
Julie Sullivan
Chief Sauschuck
Chief Lamoria
Mike Bobinsky

Attachment

Safe Disposal of Sharps

Why It's Important

Needle stick injuries are a serious public health risk, causing great stress to victims and costing thousands of dollars for medical testing.

Each year thousands of Mainers use millions of needles and lancets or "sharps" as part of their routine for controlling medical conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, severe allergies and migraines. Improper disposal of these sharps into household or workplace trash or by flushing them down the toilet puts you and your family, janitorial and solid waste staff, and the general public at risk for accidental needle sticks. Needle stick injuries are a serious public health risk because of the potential for transmission of blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS.

*Simply recapping a syringe is **not** enough to protect against needle sticks.*

"Sharps" Include

- Syringes
- Pen and pump needles
- Lancets
- Infusion sets

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Proper Disposal of
Household Sharps
in the State of Maine

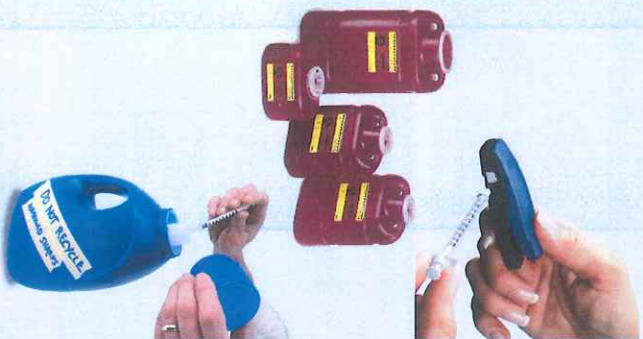


What Should I Do With My Used Sharps?

Proper Containment and Disposal Practices

Handling Sharps at Home

Place used syringes, pen needles, lancets and other sharps in rigid containers resistant to leaks and punctures. **Label filled containers "DO NOT RECYCLE."**



Needle Clipping Devices

Devices that clip the needle off of a syringe allow you to throw the remaining piece in your household trash. Wrap the full device in heavy-duty tape and dispose in your trash.

Commercially Available & Mail-Back Sharps Containers

Filled commercial sharps containers (like the ones seen here) may be placed with household trash. Mail-back containers are designed to be filled and mailed to the manufacturer or manufacturer's disposal partner for proper disposal. While sharps containers may be available for purchase at your local pharmacy, some manufacturers may also provide containers free of charge through patient support programs (registration may be required). Contact the manufacturer for details.

Household Sharps Containers

Make your own sharps container using a heavy plastic bottle with a screw-on cap such as an old liquid laundry soap bottle. Seal with heavy-duty tape **and label** before disposing in your trash.

Getting Rid of the Waste

Local Hospitals

Some hospitals may accept used household sharps and dispose of them as part of their waste stream. Contact the Environmental Services Department at your local hospital for more information.

When You Are Away From Home

All Maine Turnpike Authority rest stops, some Maine airports and some retail stores have sharps disposal boxes for use while you are away from home.

For more information, contact the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Biomedical Waste Program at (207) 287-2651 or visit www.maine.dep/sharps.

Loose syringes, lancets, and other sharps should never be thrown in the trash.

Please Don't...

- Throw loose sharps into the trash or toilet.
- Leave sharps anywhere they could injure someone.
- Store used sharps in glass bottles, soda bottles, milk jugs, aluminum cans, coffee cans, or plastic bags.
- Put containers of used sharps in with recycling.

Proper disposal means:

- ☒ Clipping needles **OR**
- ☒ Placing sharps in proper containers
- ☒ Labeling containers "DO NOT RECYCLE"
- ☒ Using heavy-duty tape to secure container lids

City of Portland



If you find sharps*
in a public place:

► **DO NOT** ►
PICK UP

Call the **Department of Public Services**
207.874.8493 to file a report.

A **trained specialist** will
clean up the area.

*Sharps include:
Syringes, Pen & Pump Needles, Lancets, Infusion Sets

Maine Revised Statutes

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§1757

Title 29-A:

§1759

MOTOR VEHICLES HEADING: PL 1993, C. 683, PT. A, §2 (NEW); PT. B, §5 (AFF)

Chapter 15: INSPECTION AND REPAIR HEADING: PL 1993, C. 683, PT. A, §2 (NEW); PT. B, §5 (AFF)

Subchapter 1: INSPECTION HEADING: PL 1993, C. 683, PT. A, §2 (NEW); PT. B, §5 (AFF)

§1758. Issuance of sticker; placement on vehicle

1. Windshield placement. If a motor vehicle meets the inspection standard, an official inspection sticker must be placed in the lower left-hand corner of the windshield or in the center of the windshield in back of the rearview mirror.

[1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF) .]

2. Without windshield. If the vehicle is not normally equipped with a windshield, the certificate of inspection must be kept with the registration certificate of the vehicle. This subsection does not apply to motorcycles.

[2009, c. 624, §1 (AMD); 2011, c. 167, §3 (AFF) .]

3. Motorcycles; proof of inspection. If a motorcycle meets the inspection standard, upon payment of applicable inspection fees pursuant to section 1751, subsection 3-A a valid certificate of inspection and an official inspection sticker for the motorcycle must be issued. The certificate of inspection must be kept with the registration certificate of the motorcycle and the official inspection sticker must be affixed to the rear of the motorcycle on the registration plate.

The official inspection sticker must be located so that it is completely and clearly visible from the rear of the motorcycle. If the registration plate is reassigned to another motorcycle pursuant to section 463, subsection 4, the certificate of inspection and the official inspection sticker expire upon reassignment.

[2011, c. 167, §2 (AMD); 2011, c. 167, §3, 7 (AFF) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). 2009, c. 624, §§1, 2 (AMD). 2009, c. 624, §4 (AFF). 2011, c. 167, §2 (AMD). 2011, c. 167, §3, 7 (AFF).

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Maine Revised Statutes

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§1911

Title 29-A:

§1913

MOTOR VEHICLES HEADING: PL 1993, C. 683, PT. A, §2 (NEW); PT. B, §5 (AFF)

Chapter 17: EQUIPMENT HEADING: PL 1993, C. 683, PT. A, §2 (NEW); PT. B, §5 (AFF)

Subchapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS HEADING: PL 1993, C. 683, PT. A, §2 (NEW); PT. B, §5 (AFF)

§1912. Mufflers

1. Muffler required. A person may not operate a motor vehicle unless that vehicle is equipped with an adequate muffler properly maintained to prevent excessive or unusual noise. For purposes of this subsection, "excessive or unusual noise" includes motor noise emitted by a motor vehicle that is noticeably louder than similar vehicles in the environment.

[2009, c. 639, §1 (AMD) .]

2. Cutouts prohibited. Except as provided in subsection 5, a muffler or exhaust system may not be equipped with a cutout, bypass or similar device.

[1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF) .]

3. Amplification prohibited. A person may not operate a motor vehicle with an exhaust system that has been modified when the result of that modification is the amplification or increase of noise emitted by the motor above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle.

[2009, c. 639, §2 (AMD) .]

4. Exhaust system fastened to engine. The entire exhaust system must be complete, without leakage and securely fastened to the engine block and frame.

[1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1993, c. 683, Pt. B, §5 (AFF) .]

5. Exception; racing meets. Notwithstanding subsection 2, an owner or operator of a motor vehicle used occasionally in racing meets may obtain a permit from the Secretary of State for installing a cutout, bypass or similar device on the exhaust system of that motor vehicle pursuant to this subsection.

A. The cutout, bypass or similar modification must be kept closed and inoperative while the vehicle is on a public way.

[2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §23 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

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B. The permit must be in the vehicle at all times while on a public way. [2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §23 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

C. The Secretary of State shall determine the eligibility of all applicants for a permit. [2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §23 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

D. The permit fee is \$1 for the registration year. [2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §23 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §23 (RPR); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

6. Defense for noise violations by motor vehicles. The following are defenses to a violation of subsection 1 or 3.

A. If a muffler or exhaust system of a motor vehicle as defined in section 101, subsection 42, not including a motorcycle, does not emit noise in excess of 95 decibels as measured in accordance with standards and specifications outlined in standard J-1169 adopted by the Society of Automotive Engineers in May 1998, subsections 1 and 3 do not apply. A person served with a Violation Summons and Complaint charging a violation of subsection 1 or 3 must provide satisfactory evidence that the muffler or exhaust system does not emit noise in excess of 95 decibels as measured in accordance with standards and specifications outlined in standard J-1169 adopted by the Society of Automotive Engineers in May 1998. Measurements must be made by a participating certified inspection station. [2011, c. 158, §1 (NEW).]

[2013, c. 100, §1 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1993, c. 683, §A2 (NEW). 1993, c. 683, §B5 (AFF). 2003, c. 140, §1 (AMD). 2003, c. 452, §Q23 (AMD). 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). 2005, c. 314, §11 (AMD). 2009, c. 639, §§1, 2 (AMD). 2011, c. 158, §1 (AMD). 2013, c. 100, §1 (AMD) .

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Office of the Revisor of Statutes

7 State House Station
State House Room 108
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