

# Needle Safe Saskatoon

## Newsletter 2018

### *Needle Safe Saskatoon Vision*

Since the summer of 1999, the vision of Needle Safe Saskatoon has been to develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with improperly discarded needles found in the Saskatoon community, provide options for safe disposal and increase knowledge about needle safety and safe needle disposal.

### 2018 Spring Clean-Up

The NSS Annual Spring Needle Clean-Up event is held each spring. In 2018, it was held April 30, and recovered 600 needles. More than 50 volunteers participated from a variety of community based organizations, health educators and service providers. Participants engaged 18 community members in educational opportunities

#### **Saskatoon Community Association Clean-Ups**

Community associations in many Saskatoon neighborhoods organize spring clean ups in May and June to remove garbage and stockpiled discarded furniture, tires, equipment. A staff member of the Population and Public Health, Street Health program attended 13 community clean up to provide educational support and the appropriate equipment for safe needle pick-up. Supplies for 2 riverbank clean ups were also provided in 2018.

#### **Street Patrollers**

Population and Public Health contracts AIDS Saskatoon every summer to provide staff to patrol key Saskatoon areas. This summer they will be out every day picking up needles and identifying hot spot areas for increased patrolling.



Needle Drop Box

#### **Public Disposal Options**

- Do **not** place used needles directly into city garbage or recycling bins.
- Return used medical needles back to the pharmacy you bought them from.
- Place used sharps in one of the needle drop boxes. See the location map and list on next page.

#### **Street Health Clients**

- Return used needles to a needle exchange site. When unable to visit a needle exchange site, use a needle drop box.

#### **Medical or Business Office Disposal**

- Call Biomed at **306-253-4476 (8:00—4:30)** to set up containers and arrange for pick up.
- Do **not** use the needle drop boxes.
- Do **not** place in the city garbage or recycling
- Contact [biomedwaste@sasktel.net](mailto:biomedwaste@sasktel.net)

### Needle Clean Up Kit

To help you dispose of needles found on your property.

The Needle Clean Up Kit includes:

- 1 pair of metal tongs
- 2 biohazard storage containers
- 20 pairs of disposable vinyl gloves
- 1 complete set of instructions

Available at 306-655-4664

*Needle Safety - It's Everyone's Concern!*

## 2017 Loose Needle Recovery

In 2017, needles in the community and drop boxes decreased. The annual recovery rate was 111%, indicating that 11% more needles were collected than given out by Population & Public Health needle exchange programs.

In 2017, a total of 18,750 needles were collected through NSS agencies. Fire & Protective Services recovered 37% of the total, City of Saskatoon 37% and Population & Public Health, including AIDS Saskatoon Street Patrols, 26%.

Needles found outdoors or in a public location, and are not in a container, are considered high risk for potential needle stick injury. Approximately 78% of needles were high risk needles in 2017, approximately the same number for the last three years.

The majority of needles were recovered from police apprehensions (37%), from alley/parking lots (20%), front streets (11%) and yard/parking lots (10%). Parks accounted for 2% and school yards less than 1% of all needles recovered from the community.

An estimated 121,800 needles were collected in the needle drop boxes located around the city, a 25% decrease from 2016. The four needle drop boxes most heavily utilized were Mayfair Drugs, Idylwyld Centre, Lawson Civic Centre and St Paul's Hospital.

### Needle Drop Box Repair Program

In 2017, we initiated a maintenance program to purchase one new needle exchange box each year to replace damaged or vandalized boxes. Mayfair Drugs was the beneficiary of the 2017 purchase. In 2018, the new needle exchange box was placed at the St. Paul's Hospital location in August. The existing box from St. Paul's Hospital was refurbished (repaired and painted) and replaced a smaller existing unit at Idylwyld Center.

As requested at the Needle Safe Saskatoon meeting in April, the unit at the 500 Avenue F location was decommissioned. This unit was refreshed and redeployed to Indian and Metis Friendship Center.

If you know of a box that requires repair or refurbishment, call 306-655-4444

## Needle Drop Box Locations

### Community Sites

**7-11** - Avenue P & 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

**Indian & Metis Friendship Centre**

- 168 Wall Street

**Walpole Avenue** & 7<sup>th</sup> Street

**Mayfair Drugs** - Avenue F & 33<sup>rd</sup> Street

**Primrose Drive Recycling Depot** - Lawson Heights Civic Centre

**Giant Tiger** Ave F and 22nd

### Fire Stations

**#1 Station** - 125 Idylwyld Drive South

**#2 Station** - 3111 Diefenbaker Drive

**#3 Station** - 1906 York Avenue

**#4 Station** - 2106 Faithful Avenue

**#5 Station** - 421 Central Avenue

**#6 Station** - 3309 Taylor Street East

**#7 Station** - 3550 Wanuskewin Road

**#8 Station** - 207 Slimmon Rd

**#9 Station** - 870 Attridge Drive

**Staff Development Centre**

- 116 Avenue W South

**Fire Inspectors Office** - 1906 York Ave

### Health Region Sites

**Idylwyld Centre**

- 310 Idylwyld Drive North

**Larson House**

- Avenue O & 21<sup>st</sup> Street

**St. Paul's Hospital**

- Avenue R & 20<sup>th</sup> Street

### Saskatoon Park Locations

**Kinsmen Park**

Spadina Cres E & 25<sup>th</sup> St

**Optimist Park**

Ave L & 19<sup>th</sup> St

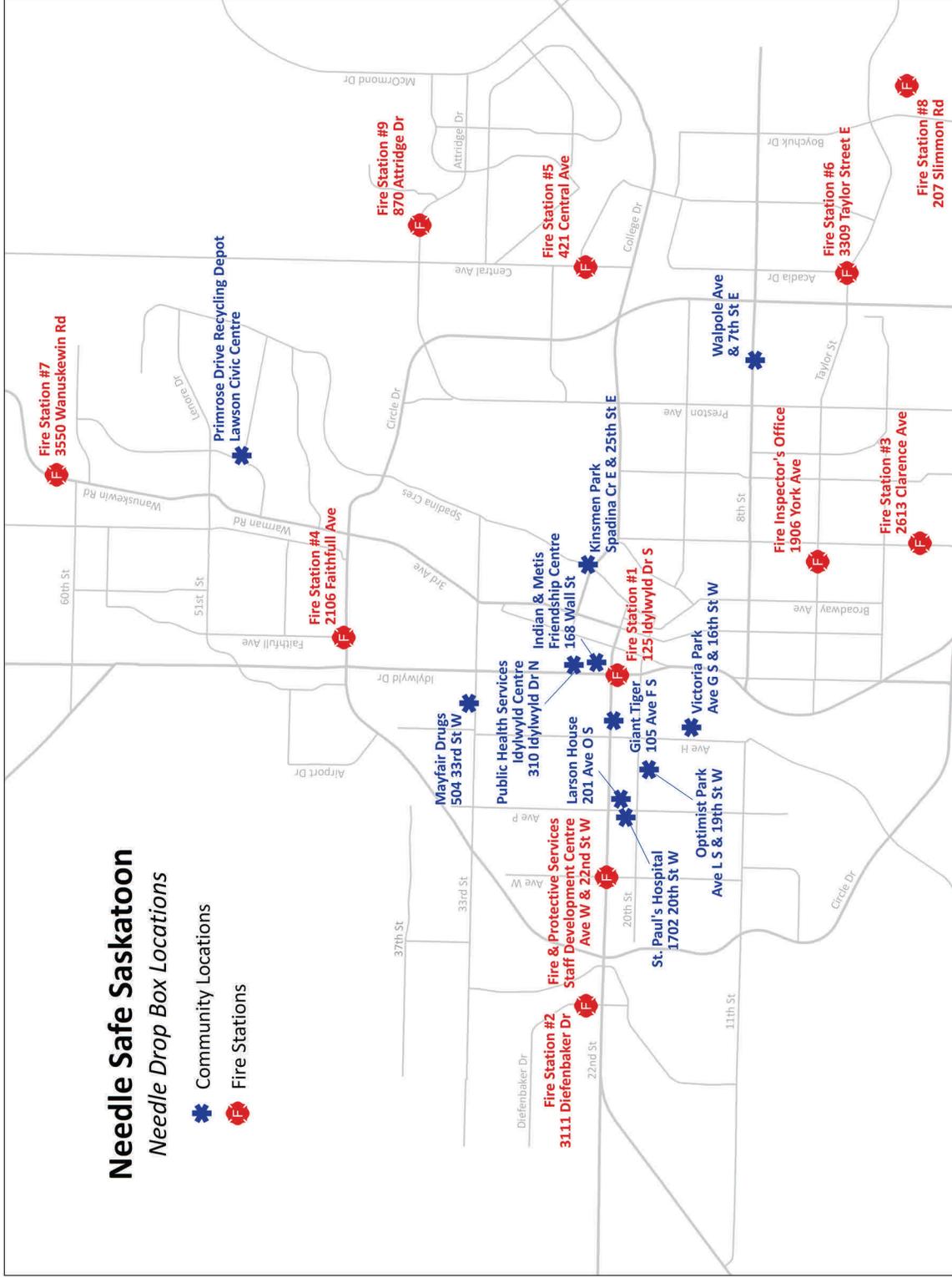
**Victoria Park Parking Lot**

Ave G & 16<sup>th</sup> St



# Needle Safe Saskatoon Needle Drop Box Locations

-  Community Locations
-  Fire Stations



# Needle Safety - It's Everyone's Concern!

If you find a used needle, follow the steps below for safe pick up and disposal.

- Do **not** recap the needle.
- Wear garden, work or medical gloves.
- Use tweezers, pliers or tongs to pick up by the end that is not the sharp end. Keep away from your body.
- Place a hard container (e.g. liquid laundry detergent or bleach container) on a flat surface prior to using. Do not hold the container.
- Place the needle, sharp end first, into a hard container and mark as "Used Needles".
- **Call 306-655-4664 if you do not have these clean-up items.**
- Fill a container no more than 3/4 full.
- Put the container lid on tight.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Store the container in a safe place until you can dispose of it.
- Do not place needles in city garbage or recycling bins.
- Place in a needle drop box in your community. Call **306-655-4444** for needle drop locations.
- Call the Saskatoon Fire & Protective Services at **306-975-3030** if you have found a needle on public property and cannot follow the steps for safe pick up and disposal.



## What should you tell children about finding needles?

Educate your children.

Tell them to:

- Never touch or pick up needles.
- Always call an adult.

## Are used needles dangerous?

Needle poke injuries are:

- A public health concern.
- Low risk for spreading hepatitis or HIV infection.

There have been no reported hepatitis or HIV infections from a community needle poke injury in Saskatoon Health Region.

## What should you do if you poke yourself with a needle?

- Allow the wound to bleed.
- Wash all exposed areas with soap and water.
- Go immediately to an Emergency Room for care. Tell them you have been poked by a needle.

For more information  
on Needle Safety &  
Disposal, call  
**306-655-4444**