



# Stop & Talk: Stop Work Authority – needle encounter

Health, Safety, Security, & Environment

SaferTogether

**Stop Work Authority was applied when our team found drug paraphernalia including needles during a survey.**

## What happened?

Whilst carrying out a Combined Sewer Overflow outfall survey, Stantec employees observed discarded needles and other drug paraphernalia at the access route to an outfall location.

This hazard had been highlighted to a lesser extent during previous visits, the Stantec team and client were aware of the issue and Site-Specific Controls had been written into the RMS1.

Both employees were wearing PPE including gloves and footwear with toe and midsole protection. The employees immediately left the site without incident.

Once off-site the team advised the Project Manager that they had Stopped Work due to the adverse situation.

**Thanks to the team for proactively assessing risk and applying our STOP WORK AUTHORITY**



## What should you do?

- Complete your RMS1 & 2, applying the energy wheel to help identify foreseeable hazards – seek local knowledge.
- Consider the hierarchy of control and other more effective controls before considering personal protective equipment as a 'last resort'.
- Do NOT pick up objects that may be sharp.
- Always wear safety boots and gloves around site.
- Use established pedestrian routes wherever possible.
- Avoid sitting or kneeling directly on the ground surface.
- If you come across discarded needles alert anyone who may be at immediate risk.
- STOP WORK if necessary and inform the Project Manager.
- Record the location and notify the Local Authority if on public land. LA's environmental services department will arrange for safe collection. Finds on private land are the landowner's responsibility to remove .

If you have questions, please contact your supervisor, Office Safety and Environment Coordinator (OSEC), or local HSSE representative

*HSSE Stop & Talk are written for educational purposes and are not intended to replace safe work practices or procedures.  
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