



A Community-Driven Approach to Syringe Litter Reporting and Response

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Public Health Issue in Framingham

- Improperly discarded syringes have been a source of **community concern** and **environmental health hazard**
- Lack of safe syringe disposal options (3) in the city
 - Framingham Public Health Department (kiosk moved from Police Department)
 - Recycling Drop-Off Center (valid \$20 annual permit & Framingham residency required)
 - Program RISE
- Previously, **no centralized response system** to report and/or discard syringes
 - People would contact:
 - Police or Fire
 - Municipal Departments (Health Department, Parks & Rec, etc.)
 - Mayor's Office
 - SeeClickFix
 - Program RISE (if they know we exist)
 - Social media
 - Or possibly just leave it there



What is SPOT (Syringe Pinpoint Observation Tool)?

- SPOT is a **simple, online survey** for people in Framingham to **report syringes found in public spaces** that Program RISE staff can safely retrieve
 - ****This is not an emergency service.** Reports will be typically responded to within 1-2 business days**
 - Similar to Boston 311 or SeeClickFix
- **SPOT addresses these community concerns** by integrating a public health tool and street outreach to:
 - Reduce syringe litter in public spaces
 - Centralize a response to pick up discarded syringes
 - Empower residents with a solution to improve environmental health and safety
 - Address FAQs & misconceptions about needle stick risks, and improve safety awareness (see SPOT website)





3 steps to report a syringe sighting in Framingham



1. Take a picture

Capture a photo of the syringe(s) you spotted



2. Open SPOT survey

Launch the SPOT survey on your phone or computer
(Scan QR code or paste URL)



form.jotform.com/RISESPOT/Report



3. Submit responses

Answer a few basic questions and upload your photo & location of syringe(s)

Program RISE staff will be notified immediately and respond to pick up the syringe(s) within 1-2 business days

After submitting report, respondent receives message:



Thank You!

Your report has been received and is under review.

Your effort helps reduce syringe litter, protect community health, and promote public safety in Framingham. JRI's Program RISE team will respond as soon as possible based on availability. We appreciate your support in keeping our community safe!

Reminder: This is *not* an emergency service. Reports are reviewed Monday–Friday, and response times may vary (~1-2 business days).

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit SPOT's website and learn more about safer syringe disposal!

SPOT Website (risespot.my.canva.site)



[ABOUT
PROGRAM RISE](#)[WHAT IS SPOT?](#)[HOW TO PICK UP
SYRINGES SAFELY](#)[NEEDLESTICK
INJURY CARE](#)[HIV & HEP C 101](#)

YOU SPOT 'EM,



WE GOT 'EM!

Linktree*

Developed as a Johns Hopkins Bloomberg American Health Initiative practicum project, this tool is managed by Program RISE of JRI Health to support harm reduction and syringe cleanup efforts in Framingham, MA.

FAQ?

After submitting a report, RISE staff are immediately notified

Two **real case study examples** since launching on May 3, 2025:

1. Respondent **self-disposed syringe**
 - a. Wednesday, May 7th at 3:06pm
2. Respondent **requested pick-up**
 - a. Friday, May 9th at 12:16pm



1. Respondent self-disposed syringe

Submission 1

Submission Date

May 7, 2025 3:06 PM

How many syringe(s) did you find?

1

Where did you find the syringe(s)?

Sidewalk

Can you provide a brief description of the exact location or nearby landmarks?

In front of 509 concord st

Please upload a photo below of the syringe(s) and its surroundings.



IMG_1580.jpeg
6.29 MB

Please drop a pin where you located the syringe(s) to make SPOTting them easier (drag red pin & zoom in on map for greater accuracy):

Framingham, MA 01702, USA
42.29019, -71.40917

Did you pick up the syringe(s) yourself?

Yes

Did you safely and properly dispose of the syringe(s) already?

Yes

Did you or someone else experience a needle stick injury while observing, handling or attempting to pick up the syringe(s)?

No

Are you willing to be contacted if more details are needed to pick up the syringe(s)?

No

2. Respondent requested pick-up

Submission 2

Submission Date May 9, 2025 12:16 PM

How many syringe(s) did you find? 10

Where did you find the syringe(s)? Near a building

Can you provide a brief description of the exact location or nearby landmarks? 11 CLAFLIN ALONG REAR SIDE OF ALLSTATE REDEMPTION CENTER ALONG TRACKS TO THE RIGHT IN OPENING

Please drop a pin where you located the syringe(s) to make SPOTting them easier (drag red pin & zoom in on map for greater accuracy): Framingham, MA 01702, USA 42.27451, -71.41872

Did you pick up the syringe(s) yourself? No

Are you willing to be contacted if more details are needed to pick up the syringe(s)? No

Key Notes:

- Picked up at 1:06pm (50 minute response time)
- 10 reported; found 3x at pinned location and more in vicinity
- Engaged with Allstate Redemption, Orlando Enterprises & FPD Officer Balducci

SPOT Data* as of July 9, 2025

Submission Date & Time	Retrieval Date & Time	Response Time	How many syringe(s) did you find?	Where did you find the syringe(s)?	Did you pick up the syringe(s) yourself?	Did you safely and properly dispose of the syringe(s) already?	Did you or someone else experience a needle stick injury while observing, handling or attempting to pick up the syringe(s)?	Are you willing to be contacted if more details are needed to pick up the syringe(s)?
6/26/2025 13:09	6/26/2025 13:45	36 minutes	5	Parking lot	No			No
6/25/2025 15:49	N/A	N/A	20	Sidewalk	Yes	Yes	No	No
6/19/2025 10:54	6/24/2025 8:01	5 days (RISE closed on 6/19 Juneteenth, i.e. 2 business days)	2	In the woods	No			No
5/24/2025 9:49	5/27/2025 8:13	3 days (RISE closed on 5/26 Memorial Day, i.e. 13 minutes during business hours)	1	Near a building	No			Yes
5/9/2025 12:16	5/9/2025 13:06	50 minutes	10	Near a building	No			No
5/7/2025 15:06	N/A	N/A	1	Sidewalk	Yes	Yes	No	No

**Not included: Map coordinates, photos & optional contact information from submissions*

Next Steps for SPOT

1. Get the word out!
2. Program evaluation on syringe litter & SPOT via anonymous survey in June/July 2025
 - a. **Document community observations** on syringe litter, local responses, and safety concerns
 - b. **Assess perceived awareness**, usability, and early effectiveness of SPOT
 - c. **Examine early SPOT outcomes**, e.g. community engagement, reporting metrics, and geographic reach
3. Use report & evaluation data to guide resource allocation and future work
 - a. Target higher-need areas for street outreach and education (more immediately)
 - b. Inform other safer syringe disposal strategies

You SPOT 'em, We GOT 'em!

Any questions or comments?





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2. Open SPOT survey

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(see reverse for link/QR code)



3. Submit responses

Answer a few basic questions and upload your photo & location of syringe(s)

Report a syringe HERE or scan QR code:

form.jotform.com/RISESPOT/Report

*Any questions or
feedback? Email us!*

SPOT@jri.org



Visit SPOT website for more info:

risespot.my.canva.site