

**Volunteer Litter Picking Information Sheet**

As the organiser please introduce yourself to the group and advise you are the lead volunteer before any litter picks take place. In general litter picks are a safe activity and it is very unlikely that anyone in the group would encounter any serious incidents or hazards.

Arrange a tool box talk for the group undertaking the litter pick **BEFOREHAND** to ensure that all volunteers know the risks and understand the control measures before clearing any litter.

Take this opportunity to allow the volunteers to ask any questions / report any incidents during the litter pick and show them how to use the equipment in a correct way.

Before the litter pick consider the following:

* Do a walkthrough of the area beforehand, risk assess, take notes and share with volunteers:
	+ Look for site activity and conditions
	+ Look for obvious slips, trips or falls and avoid area
	+ Look for steep embankments and slopes and avoid area
	+ Keep away from water courses, rivers, streams and canal areas
	+ Other park users
	+ Organised events within the area
	+ Dogs on / off leads
* Has the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) been discussed / provided?– eg Thick gloves, hi-viz vest ‘to be seen’, sensible sturdy footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.
* Has the correct equipment been given out? – eg Litter pickers, plastic bags, brush, shovel etc.
* Do volunteers know how to use the equipment?
* Consider all the risks and hazards in the work area, eg hazardous waste, broken glass, avoid sharp objects, avoid dog waste, roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden bankings etc.
* Know how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste
* Where to get first aid
* Where to meet up on completion of the litter pick
* Where to deposit bags of waste and mark bags containing sharp materials ie: glass
* Wear strong waterproof gloves
* Ask volunteers to bring a small handy bottle of non-alcoholic antiseptic hand gel whilst litter picking
* Avoid litter picking near main roads and keep to large open spaces / housing areas
* Do not litter pick if you suspect drug paraphilia
* Do not pick up needles. Telephone Contact Warrington on 01925 443322 immediately and we will remove
* Supervise all children

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Certain | 5 | Fatality | 6 | 2 x 3 = 6Ie **LOW RISK** |
| Probable | 4 | Serious Disablement | 5 |
| Even Chance | 3 | Sprain, Major Cuts/Bruises | 4 | High Risk = 21 to 30 |
| Possible | 2 | Minor Cut/Strain | 3 | Medium Risk = 11 to 20 |
| Unlikely | 1 | Minor Bruises/Grazes | 2 | Low Risk = 2 to 10 |

Use the table below to score the risks in the **Risk Assessment Table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Date | Phone | Location of Clean Up |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Likelihood (a)** | **Severity (b)** | **Magnitude = a x b** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HAZARD** | **RISK** | **CONTROLS** | **MEASURES TO REDUCE****EFFECT IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT** | **Score** | **Risk** |
| **Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges** | Cuts & infections | * Use litter pickers to pick up sharp litter.
* All participants should have up to date tetanus protection.
 | Seek medical attention where appropriate.Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. |  |  |
| **Needles** | Cuts & infections | * Leave alone & report to council for removal. Telephone Contact Warrington on 01925 443322
 | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |  |  |
| **Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish** | Pulled muscles & strains | * Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people.
* If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange

removal by the council. | Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort.Seek medical attention if the ill effects persist. |  |  |
| **Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals** | Potentially dangerous depending on condition | * Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste.
* Report to the council for disposal.
 | Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record anylabel details. |  |  |
| **Ground conditions** | Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones. | * Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground.
* Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear.
 | Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.Seek medical attention for any serious cuts, bruises or strains |  |  |
| **Highways vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery** | Collision with moving traffic. | * Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible.
* Stay off the highway.
* Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery.
* Wear high visibility clothing provided
* Do not work on pavements / highway verges if the speed limit is 40mph or over.
* Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick.
* Keep a look out.
* Children must not work by ANY road side
 | Seek medical attention in the event of injury. |  |  |
| **People, lone working** | Physical or verbal assault | * Be aware of aggressive and difficult people.
* Withdraw rather than face conflict.
* Do not work out of sight of others in the group.
* Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone and share details with each other
* Keep together and stay off private property.
 | Seek medical attention following any assault / injury. |  |  |
| **Animals – Domestic, wild & farm** | Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches from animals | * Wear appropriate clothing.
* Beware of loose dogs.
* Avoid contact with animals.
* Avoid contact with animal faeces.
 | Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten or scratched. Wash hands immediately after contact with faeces.Avoid touching eyes or mouth. |  |  |
| **Waterside diseases** | Weil’s Disease from rat’s urine | * Do not touch dead animals.
* Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick.
* Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds or canals.
 | Seek medical attention where appropriate.Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor |  |  |
| **Dog faeces** | Toxocara canis | * Do not touch dog faeces.
* Always wear gloves and use a shovel when removing dog faeces.
 | Thoroughly wash your hands.Thoroughly wash any cuts |  |  |
|  |  |  | or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.Seek medical attention where appropriate. |  |  |
| **Weather****Eg Thunder storms** | Various health issues | * Cease work in inappropriate conditions.
* Avoid working in extreme conditions.
* Dress for conditions & carry additional clothing.
* In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or

abandoned | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |  |  |
| **Steep slopes / Uneven Ground** | Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones. | * Instruct volunteers to stay away from these areas.
* Do not litter pick on or close to the edge of steep slopes etc and below unstable slopes.
* Take weather conditions and possible weather changes into account.
* Seek medical treatment in the event of injury.
* Take account of tides etc. DO NOT WORK NEAR WATER COURSES, RIVERS
 | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |  |  |
| **Electric fences** | Electrocution | * Always assume electric fences are live.
* Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences
* DO NOT WORK NEAR ELECTIC FENCING
 | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |  |  |
| **Water, marshes, bogs** | Hypothermia, drowning. | * Do not work near banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs if close to water
* Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed.
* Never allow children to work in these areas.
* Adults should be cautious & non-swimmer must not litter pick near water
* DO NOT WORK NEAR WATER COURSES, RIVERS THAT CAUSE ANY RISK
 | Seek medical attention where appropriate. |  |  |
| **Hedges, fences, walls, ditches** |  | * Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather.
* Avoid climbing walls, ditches and fences.
* Stay within the nominated location
 |  |  |  |
| **Tools, equipment** |  | * Team to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate.
* Allow sufficient working area for the correct and safe use of the tool.
* Use appropriate protection
* First aid training.
* Have first aid kit available.
* Volunteers must use the equipment provided and as instructed.
 | Obtain medical attention in the event of injury. |  |  |
| **Trees, shrubs** | Trips, cuts & eye pokes | * Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards.
* Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots.
 | Obtain medical attention in the event of injury. |  |  |
| **Irritants, dangerous plants** | Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions | * Wear the gloves provided.
* Beware of dangerous plants and possible adverse reactions.
* Wash thoroughly on completion of such operations.
 | Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation. |  |  |

**On Completion of the Litter Pick Ensure:**

* Everyone washes their hands thoroughly as soon as possible after the litter pick and before taking any food or drink.
* Any wounds are redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.
* Volunteers carry out a personal inspection for cuts etc.
* Report any hazardous items to the Council.
* All volunteers have reported back and all equipment is collected back in.
* All rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged pick up site.
* Any bags containing sharp material, eg broken glass, are clearly identified.