

# Safety Guidelines

The program depends on the common sense and responsibility of all individual participants. Participants must realize they are working in a potentially hazardous environment and diligently follow all safety requirements.

## **Before Pick-up Day**

- You must hold at least one safety orientation session per year. This session must be attended by everyone picking up on your adopted highway. This session will review the following guidelines and safety information supplied by the Department of Transportation and Public Works.
- Perform a hazard assessment of your adopted area, noting specific areas where vehicles can safely pull off the travelled portion of the roadway. Also try to car pool to the site to keep roadside parking to a minimum.
- All participants must be 12 years of age or older.
- Adopting groups must provide at least one adult supervisor for every five youth under the age of 18 years.

## **The Best Time for Cleanup**

- Please avoid peak travel times or when traffic is heavy.
- Only work during daylight hours, (½ hour after sunrise and ½ hour before sunset) and only in fair to good weather conditions.
- Never participate in or allow someone else to participate in a litter pickup while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. (Even some over-the-counter medications can adversely affect judgement and reaction time.)

## **What to Wear**

- Visibility is a key to safety – always wear a proper safety vest which is in good condition. These are typically blaze orange with reflective striping, vertical on the front and an “X” on the back. These are supplied by the Department of Transportation and Public Works.
- Wear comfortable, long sleeve/long pant, clothing which will offer some protection for your arms and legs. This will not only protect you from scrapes, scratches and UV rays, but also reduce injuries from falls.
- Footwear should be a six- or eight-inch high boot type, fully laced to protect the ankle, with a deep traction sole to reduce slips, trips, falls, and protect ankle from injuries. Grade 1 steel toed boots are recommended.

## **During Pickups**

- The group shall make arrangements for off-road parking or shuttle bus travel to the work site. All vehicles at the pickup site shall be parked at the nearest cross street, if possible, or at least three feet from the pavement when parking on the highway.
- Always place or confirm placement of “road work” signs before beginning the cleanup. Use transparent litter bags provided by the Department of Transportation and Public Works.
- Always work and walk facing traffic and stay with your group or team. The number of times that participants cross the road should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- Take frequent rest breaks, especially during hot, humid weather – drink plenty of fluids and do not over exert yourself.
- **Do not pick up materials that are suspicious or appear hazardous. In such a case, contact the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry at tel: 1-800-565-1633.**

- Do not pick up litter on the road itself.\*
- Do not pick up litter on median strips or traffic separation islands.\*
- Do not pick up litter in active construction or maintenance sites or on bridges or overpasses.\*

**\* These areas will be handled by the Department of Transportation and Public Works.**

### **Contact Information**

For additional information on the Adopt-A-Highway Program

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