

## **Safety Guidelines**

As much as we value our state's beauty, we value our citizens even more. Volunteer groups must follow very strict safety guidelines. Please review the following safety procedures before each cleanup.

1. Before beginning a pickup, the group leader will unfasten the "Litter Pick-Up" sign and lower it into place. When open, it will display the words "Litter Pickup Ahead". At the end of the cleanup, close the sign to indicate completion of work.
2. Everyone participating in the cleanup must wear an orange safety vest at all times. Long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, work gloves and eye protection are recommended. SCDOT supplies only the vests.
3. Alcoholic beverages and intoxicated participants are prohibited on a cleanup.
4. Don't try to handle hazardous litter. Some items may seem harmless but they can contain dangerous chemicals used in meth labs. Items to avoid:
  - discarded syringes/needles
  - car batteries
  - drink containers with liquid in them
  - closed coolers
  - containers connected with rubber hosing
  - chemical containers
  - unidentifiable or leaking containers

Inform the Resident Maintenance Engineer or law enforcement to let them handle these kinds of problems.

Also, do not pick up dead animals.

Only adults should pick up used condoms and sanitary pads, etc. and **ONLY WITH GLOVES OR PICKUP STICK.**

5. Work together as a group and walk facing oncoming traffic. Work one side of the highway at a time.
6. Every group should have a first aid kit and cell phone.
7. In warm weather, take frequent drinks of water, frequent breaks and take steps to prevent sunburn.
8. Be very careful handling broken glass. Be careful not to step or kneel in areas where there might be hidden broken glass.
9. Be alert and ready to react to traffic.

10. Do not pick up trash from the pavement. Stay at least five feet away from the edge of the road.
11. Do not engage in horseplay.
12. Demonstrations are not allowed.
13. Watch out for bees, wasps, fire ants, snakes, poisonous plants and other potential natural hazards (especially if some individuals have allergies). Always look before stepping.
14. If youth groups are involved in the cleanup, adult supervision is required at all times. Do not bring small children to a cleanup. Volunteers must be at least the age of 13 to participate in Adopt-A-Highway cleanups. All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
15. Stay off of steep slopes and don't try and remove trash from grass and shrubs that are overgrown.
16. Don't wear music headsets, which could interfere with hearing traffic. Don't wear hats that could obscure your vision and keep you from seeing an approaching hazard.
17. Don't try to compress trash into the bags, as sharp objects could cause injury.
18. Don't bring knives, machetes or other such tools that could cause accidental injuries.
19. Work will only be performed during daylight hours and not during inclement weather.
20. Volunteers that are under the care of a physician (i.e. has had surgery, etc.) and have been prescribed medication (pain, etc.) that alters normal reactions, should stay home until they are better equipped to handle roadside pickup.