



Risk Assessment for Volunteer Litter Picking

This form should be completed by the lead volunteer before the start of any litter pick. Litter picks are generally very safe and it is unlikely that you will encounter any serious hazards or incidents – you will see that the points below are just common sense and are worth considering to ensure your event runs as smoothly and safely as possible.

As the organiser of the litter pick you should ensure that all volunteers know the risks and understand the control measures before clearing any litter. It is sensible to address all volunteers and introduce yourself as the lead volunteer/organiser, so they know who to go to with questions/to report an incident. You should also check that all volunteers know what equipment they must use and what area they may clean up. Also advise that a copy of the risk assessment is available on request.

Name	Date	Phone	Location of Clean Up

Before starting your clean up ensure all volunteers:

- Have the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – eg gloves, hi-viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.
- Have the correct equipment – eg Litter grabbers, plastic bags, dog waste bags, brush, shovel etc and know how to use the equipment.
- Consider all the risks and hazards in the work area, eg hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, vomit, needles, condoms and roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden bankings etc.
- Know the area and how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste, where to get first aid, all meet up when you finish the litter pick up, disposal of any rubbish, mark any bags containing sharp material eg broken glass.

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

Likelihood (a)		Severity (b)		Magnitude = a x b
Certain	5	Fatality	5	2 x 3 = 6
Probable	4	Serious Disablement	4	le LOW RISK
Even Chance	3	Sprain, Major Cuts/Bruises	3	High Risk = 21 to 30
Possible	2	Minor Cut/Strain	2	Medium Risk = 11 to 20
Unlikely	1	Minor Bruises/Grazes	1	Low Risk = 2 to 10

Risk Assessment Table

HAZARD	RISK	CONTROLS	MEASURES TO REDUCE EFFECT IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT	Score (axb=)	Risk (LOW, MED, HIGH)
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice provided not to pick up any litter, broken glass or sharps with hands and no sharp material with litter picker. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.		
Needles	Cuts & infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave alone; tell the Council for removal, contact Streetscene 0151 606 2004. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not remove - if too heavy to handle leave the object in place and tell us (council). 	Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort. Seek medical attention if the pain, suffering etc. continues.		
Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Report to the Council for disposal, Streetscene 0151 606 2004. 	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.		
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. Tell 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible. Stay off dual carriage ways / busy roads Wear high visibility clothing if necessary Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick. Keep a look out Use pedestrian crossings, where available. 	Seek medical attention in the event of injury.		
People, lone working	Physical or verbal assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. Withdraw rather than face conflict. Do not work out of sight of others in the group. Lead volunteer to have mobile phone. Keep together and stay off private property. 	Seek medical attention following any assault / injury. Report the incident to the Police non emergency phone number 0151-709-6010, if an emergency call 999.		

Animals – Domestic or wild	Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches from animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear appropriate clothing. • Beware of loose dogs. • Advice to not enter private property. • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Always use the litter picker to pick up the litter – not hands. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor		
Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dog faeces. 	Thoroughly wash your hands. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. Seek medical attention where appropriate.		
Weather E.g. Rain, Cold	Various health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't do a litter pick up in bad weather conditions. • Avoid working in extreme conditions. • Dress for weather and your route & carry additional clothing. • In the event of extreme weather conditions the litter pick should be postponed or abandoned 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		
Cliffs and, steep slopes	Falls leading to sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct volunteers to stay away from these areas. • Avoid picking on or close to the edge of cliffs, steep slopes etc and below unstable cliffs & slopes. Take weather conditions and possible weather changes into account. • Seek medical treatment in the event of injury. • Take account of tides. 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		
Electric fences	Electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always assume electric fences are live. • Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		
Water, marshes, bogs	Hypothermia, drowning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs if close to water. • Shower and change into warm dry clothing if 	Seek medical attention where appropriate.		

		<p>immersed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults should be cautious & non-swimmer must not litter pick near water 			
Tools, equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Seek medical attention in the event of injury.		
Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. • Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	Seek medical attention in the event of injury.		

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.
- That the area covered is inspected to see if there is any hazardous material still present. If so record for reporting to the Council.
- All volunteers have reported back and all equipment is collected back in.
- All rubbish collected has been disposed of.
- Any bags containing sharp material, eg broken glass, have been marked using the spray can.