



Risk Assessment for Big Help Out - Litter Picking

Monday 8 May 2023

Risk Assessment Table

Hazard	Risk	Controls	Measures to reduce effect in the event of an accident
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & infections	Gloves to be worn at all times if cleaning up. Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter. If in doubt don't pick up.	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.
Needles	Cuts & infections	Leave alone & report to EMPC.	Seek medical attention where appropriate.
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	Do not remove – if too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report to EMPC.	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	Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Report to the EMPC	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides, or other chemicals – record any label details.
Ground conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones	Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. Wear suitable footwear when out.	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. Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery. Wear high visibility clothing if necessary. Do not work on the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over. Be aware of the vehicles. Keep look out.	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. Report to EMPC.	Seek medical attention following any assault/injury. Report the incident to the Police non-emergency phone number, if an emergency call 999.
Volunteers	Back strains, fatigue	Ensure breaks are taken appropriately.	Seek medical attention where appropriate.
Animals – Domestic, wild & farm	Lymes disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches from animals.	Be aware 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 and mouth.
Waterside diseases	Weil's disease from rats' urine.	Do not touch dead animals. Avoid getting hands wet in rivers or ponds.	Seek medical attention. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.

Dog faeces	Toxocara canis	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 eg Thunder storms	Various health issues.	Don't do a litter pick up in bad weather conditions. Dress for weather and your route.	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Electric fences	Electrocution	Always assume electric fences are live. Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences.	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Water	Hypothermia, drowning.	Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs. Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed. Adults should be cautious & non swimmers must not litter pick near water.	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		Must be shown how to use equipment if appropriate. Allow sufficient working area for the correct and safe use of the tool. Use appropriate protection. Have first aid kit available. Use the equipment provided and as instructed.	Seek 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.	Seek 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.	
Lost children		All children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.	If a child is lost report to EMPC and if an emergency call 999.	
First Aider for site:				