

# Adopt-A-Street Program Safety Checklist

The objective of this program is to keep our streets clean and safe. At no time is the safety of any volunteer to be placed in jeopardy while participating in any activities. All participants are required to wear safety vests and gloves while actively collecting litter.

- Discuss the route to be cleaned up.** Note any areas of concern or potential danger (i.e. high traffic areas).
- Supervise Minors and ensure there is a responsible adult present to supervise them.**
- Prepare your materials.** Make sure you have all the tools and materials you need to complete your work safely and efficiently (gloves, vests, dust pans, litter pickers, etc.).
- Review safety instructions with participants.**
- Watch for cars and vehicles.** Drivers may not expect to see volunteers working.
- Obey all traffic regulations.** Volunteers should obey all signal and traffic lights and use intersections and marked crosswalks where available.
- Volunteers must not handle hazardous litter.** Objects that contain corrosive chemicals (i.e. car batteries) or objects that may carry harmful bacteria or disease (i.e. dead animals, syringes, needles, condoms, etc.) should not be touched. Please contact the Adopt-A-Street Coordinator for disposal of these items.
- Handle dangerous litter carefully.** Dangerous litter such as broken glass razor blades or other sharp objects should be handled carefully to avoid injury. These items should be handled with a “litter picker” or swept with a broom and picked up with a dust pan.
- Never reach blindly to pick up an item.** Use a litter picker to identify the item before picking it up.
- Work in pairs or teams.** This is safer than working alone as it allows volunteers to look out for each other.

## Walking on Streets

- Work on one side of the street at a time.
- Start your litter pickup in the direction against traffic. This ensures all volunteers are facing oncoming traffic and aware of dangers.
- Once the garbage bag is full, or you have completed your cleanup, secure the bags and leave them at each Adopt-A-Street sign, or other visible/accessible location and contact the Adopt-A-Street Coordinator to arrange pick up and disposal.

## Volunteer Clothing

- Always wear the safety vests and gloves provided.
- Participants should wear suitable footwear – boots or closed-toe shoes.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Avoid the use of headphones or restrictive clothing.

## In Case of Emergency

- Keep a cell phone handy.
- Have transportation available.
- Know the quickest route to the nearest hospital in case of serious injury.

## Tips

- Prohibit any alcohol and illegal drugs.
- Keep an adequate supply of water.
- Report your clean-up activities to your coordinator on the participant record form. Include any significant irregularities, and be sure to report any injuries immediately.