

Sutton-in-Craven Parish Council

Risk Assessment for Volunteer Litter Clearance

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 only common sense and are worth considering ensuring 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) – e.g. Thick gloves, Hi-Viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.
- Have the correct equipment – e.g. 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, e.g. hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, vomit, needles, condoms and roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden banking etc.
- Know the work area and how to report incidents of hazardous or unidentified waste, where to get first aid, meet on completion, deposit bags of waste and mark bags containing sharp material e.g. broken glass.

HAZARD	RISK	H/M/L	CONTROLS	MEASURES TO REDUCE IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENTS	Review/Assess/Revise
Covid-19	Transmission of Covid-19 virus	L/M	Follow Government Guidelines on who can volunteer and numbers. Volunteers to bring own gloves. Wash hands before and after litter pick Carry hand sanitiser. Stay at least one metre from fellow volunteers and members of the public. Do not pick up sharps. Litter to be tied up in strong waste sacks.	Individuals currently shielding, in 'at risk' groups (or in contact with those symptoms) or have directly been advised too self-isolate. Do not attend if feeling unwell or have tested positive for Covid-19 or if another household member has developed symptoms of Covid-19.	
Refuse/Litter (Broken glass, needles sharp/rusty edges)	Cuts & Infections	L/M	Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter. Only pick up general litter. Always wear gloves. All participants should have up to date tetanus protection. Do not collect medical waste (e.g. syringes). Phone CDC to collect waste other than general litter.	Seek medical attention where appropriate. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.	
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strains	L/M	Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people. If too heavy to handle leave the object to arrange removal by council.	Stop immediately if suffering any pain or discomfort. Seek medical attention if the ill effect persists.	
Chemicals, batteries & asbestos	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	M	Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Report to the Council for disposal.	Seek medical attention if exposed to pesticides, insecticides, or other chemicals – record any label details.	
Ground Conditions	Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones	M	Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. Instruct 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.	
Highway vehicles, bicycles, plant and machinery	Collision with moving traffic	M/H	Avoid proximity to traffic if possible. Stay off the highway. Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery. Wear high visibility clothing if necessary.	Seek medical attention in the event of an injury.	

			<p>Do not work on the roadside if the speed limit is 40mph or over.</p> <p>Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick.</p> <p>Keep a look out.</p> <p>Children should not work by a roadside.</p>		
People Lone Working	Physical or verbal assault	L/M	<p>Be aware of aggressive and difficult people.</p> <p>Withdraw rather than face conflict.</p> <p>Do not work out of sight of others in the group.</p> <p>Organiser/section leader to have mobile phone.</p> <p>Keep together and stay off private property.</p>	Seek medical attention following any assault/injury.	
Animals – Domestic, wild & farm	<p>Bites or scratches</p> <p>Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks.</p> <p>Weil's Disease from rat's urine</p>	<p>L</p> <p>M</p>	<p>Wear appropriate clothing.</p> <p>Beware of loose dogs or livestock.</p> <p>Avoid contact with animals.</p> <p>Seek medical attention if bitten or stung.</p> <p>Do not touch dead animals.</p> <p>Cover any cuts or sores with a waterproof plaster before carrying out a litter pick.</p> <p>Avoid getting hands wet in rivers, ponds, or canals.</p>	<p>Seek medical attention where appropriate.</p> <p>Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.</p>	
Dog Faeces	Toxocara canis	L/M	<p>Do not touch dog faeces.</p> <p>Always wear gloves and use a shovel/scoop when removing dog faeces.</p>	<p>Thoroughly wash your hands.</p> <p>Thoroughly wash any cuts.</p>	
Weather	Thunderstorms, Sunburn, heatstroke, hypothermia	L	<p>Be aware of the weather forecast.</p> <p>Drink plenty of water.</p> <p>Cease work in inappropriate conditions.</p> <p>Avoid working in extreme conditions.</p> <p>Dress for conditions & carry additional clothing.</p>	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Electric Fences	Electrocution	L	<p>Always assume electric fences are live.</p> <p>Warn volunteers not to touch electric fences.</p>	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Water, Marshes & bogs	Hypothermia, drowning.	M/H	<p>Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable.</p> <p>Always work in pairs if close to water.</p> <p>Shower and change into warm dry clothing if immersed.</p> <p>Never allow children to work in these areas.</p> <p>Adults should be cautious & non-swimmer must not litter pick near water.</p>	Seek medical attention where appropriate.	
Hedges, fences, walls, ditches		M	<p>Take care when climbing stiles particularly in wet weather.</p>		

			Avoid climbing walls, ditches, and fences. Stay within nominated location.		
Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes, falling branches	L	Be alert to the risks and keep a look out for hazards. Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots.	Obtain medical attention in the event of an injury.	
Irritants, dangerous plants	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	L	Where 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.	
Tools, equipment		L	Team to be shown how to use equipment if appropriate. Allow sufficient working area for the correct and safe use of tool. Use appropriate protection. Have a first aid kit available. Volunteer must use the equipment provided as instructed.	Obtain 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.**
- **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.**
- **Report any hazardous items to Craven District Council.**
- **All volunteers have reported back, and all equipment is collected back in.**
- **All rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged pick up site.**
- **Any bags containing sharp material, e.g. broken glass, are clearly identified.**