Safety Matters */* Risk Assessment

**What are the potential risks?**Litter may be contaminated. Some areas have their own risks. Please ensure you have read all the health and safety guidance.

**How to complete a risk assessment:** Have a think about potential risks in the area you are planning to clean and consider what you can do about them. By conducting a risk assessment, you are making sure you have done your best to keep people safe. This will make it easy talk to your group before the event about safety precautions. Complete the table below thinking about the area you are planning to litter-pick in:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group name** |  | **Group leader name** |  | **Date of Litter-pick** |  |
| **Date of assessment** |  | **Location of litter-pick** |  | **Time of litter-pick** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **What is the risk?** | **Is the risk present at your clean-up Y/N?** | **What can be done to reduce the risk?** | **Who is going do it and when?** |
| Highways vehicles, bicycles,  collision with moving traffic |  |  |  |
| Needles, broken glass or sharp objects, rusty edges (Cuts and infections) |  |  |  |
| Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish (Pulled muscles) |  |  |  |
| Toxic waste: Batteries, asbestos, chemicals etc |  |  |  |
| Ground conditions (Sprains, muscle damage and broken bones.) |  |  |  |
| Animals (Lymes Disease carried by animal ticks and bites/scratches from animals)  Dog faeces |  |  |  |
| Waterborne diseases (Weil’s Disease from rat’s urine) |  |  |  |
| Adverse weather conditions |  |  |  |
| Open water, marshes, bogs (drowning) |  |  |  |
| Tools, equipment |  |  |  |
| Trees, shrubs (Trips, cuts, and eye injuries) |  |  |  |

**On Completion of the Litter-pick ensure that:**

* 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
* All volunteers have reported back, and all equipment is collected back in and sanitized
* All rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged pick up site

**Medical attention:**

It is a good idea to carry a first aid kit with you to your event. However, if someone has an injury or health issue that is more serious, it is also a good idea to make a note of where the nearest hospital is here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Lost Property:**

Sometimes groups pick up certain discarded objects which they should hand into the local police station such as: stolen handbags, knives, etc – if you are not sure what to do with something you find you can always ask your local council when they come to collect the litter or call 101 for non-urgent police enquiries. 

[www.cleanupuk.org.uk](http://www.cleanupuk.org.uk)