

Community Litter Pick / Beach Clean Safety Talk

All volunteers must hear this talk. Please follow the script and checklist below to ensure everyone stays safe at your event.

Green wording - beach clean / river bank clean up only

"Everybody, please listen up! I am going to take a couple of minutes to cover some important safety points to make sure we have a safe and enjoyable event.

Thank you for coming.

Today we will be cleaning-up...

[state the desired boundaries for the clean-up]

Introduce all the people with key roles today:

- Team Leaders, First Aider and Glass Collector

1. Please stay with your team throughout the clean-up and do not work alone.

2. Do not enter the water.

3. Ask volunteers to work in groups of two or three and not to work alone.

4. Make sure you wear strong footwear [no sandals in summer], suitable clothing [warm clothes in winter, sun hats and sun cream in summer] and protective gloves at all times.

5. Do not pick up or scoop up litter with your bare hands - it could contain broken glass, fish hooks or hypodermic needles.

6. If you find a hypodermic needle (syringe), broken glass, fish hooks or a dead animal, please leave it and alert the group leader.

7. Use litter pickers to pick up litter if it is hidden in bushes. Do not put your hands into any material where you cannot see exactly what there is as there may be sharps.

8. Leave any unbagged nappies and dog faeces. Volunteers are welcome to pick up bagged dog faeces and nappies but only if they feel comfortable to do so.

9. If volunteers come across anything hazardous such as sealed containers or drums, bombs and explosives, or anything with the words 'Hazardous' written on it, do not touch and call for the group leader.

10. Please do not overfill the bags because you will need to carry them back to the collection point at the end of the clean up. Take spare bags with you.

When lifting:

- Keep knees bent in the crouch position
- Get a firm grip on the load
- Always lift with your back straight, using your legs
- Don't walk backwards or run with a load
- Stop work if you feel a strain

Please leave your bags of rubbish at [state collection point agreed with the Council].

11. In the event of an emergency, either myself, the First Aider or one of the team leaders should be notified.

12. If you are feeling unwell at any point, if you have an accident or witness an accident, please notify the first aider and event leader immediately.

13. Avoid touching your face, eyes and mouth whilst working. Always wash hands before eating and drinking, and use the antibacterial hand gel provided any time you take your gloves off.

14. We will meet back here at [state desired finishing time for the event]. Please let me know if you are planning on leaving before the end.

If there is anything you find and feel unsure of, do not pick it up. If you have any questions, or any allergies/disabilities that I need to be aware of, please let me know. Remember, take your time, look out for yourself and others. Don't take risks and have an enjoyable time!"

Emergency numbers

Clean leaders must ensure that they have a mobile phone for use in case of emergencies, and that the battery is fully charged.

Police / Ambulance / Coastguard - 999

- For use in emergencies

Environment agency - 0800 807600

- To report any oil or chemical spills
- To report any dangerous/suspicious items

Coastguard - 01305 760439

- To report any dangerous/suspicious items

Dorset Council Waste Team - 01305 221040

(or email wasteteam@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

- To report sharps, such as hypodermic needles