

## Example Risk Assessment for Community Clean-up

<b>Activity to be carried out:</b>
Litter Picking / Community clean up
<b>Date of assessment:</b>
<b>Assessment completed by:</b>
<b>Concerns arising from the activity:</b>
<p>Issues potentially affecting all community members taking part in clean up operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cuts and abrasions due to handling sharp objects (e.g. glass, drug paraphernalia)</li><li>• Infection due to contact with discarded syringes nappies, dog excrement, rotting food, clinical waste, soil and contaminated water etc.</li><li>• Burns, irritation and other injuries / illness due to the handling of discarded chemicals, or hazardous materials such as oil, damaged car batteries (acid) etc.</li><li>• Strains /sprains, crushed hands or feet / slipped disc etc. due to the lifting and carrying of heavy items and /or dropping objects being carried.</li><li>• Cuts and lacerations due to snagging on shrubs, hidden obstacles, fence wires etc.</li><li>• Physical injury due to dog bites or violent members of the public</li><li>• Assault, robbery or worsening of injuries following an accident, due to members of the team working alone, or in isolation.</li><li>• Extreme weather conditions – heat, cold, ice, snow, rain.</li><li>• Lost group members sepaprated from party.</li></ul> <p>Issues affecting all community members taking part in clean up operation and to members of the public such as cyclists, dog walkers and pedestrians who may travel through the cleanup area during the operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slips, trips and falls resulting in twisted or sprained ankles, cuts and bruising as a result of walking on uneven / rough or excessively sloping ground, or from tripping on equipment or rubbish left on the ground and obstructing walkways.</li><li>• Working adjacent to roads and on streets and pavements.</li></ul>

## Control Measures:

### Prior to clean up starting:

- Decide if weather suitable for the planned activity.
- A site check will be undertaken by team leaders before activity begins to determine and remove any identified hazards (where possible), and to confirm that area is appropriate for activities to be carried out.
- A briefing will take place at the beginning of each session to cover the potential issues identified (as detailed) and working practices to be adopted and followed. Team leaders should update any participant who misses the briefing.
- Any areas near to the location that are unsuitable i.e. due to excessive slopes, hazardous ground conditions, watercourses, busy roads or aggressive dogs etc. will be avoided and this communicated during the initial briefing session. Participants will be advised to maintain a safe distance from such areas.

### During the clean up operation:

- All participants should wear appropriate clothing, stout footwear and gloves or sun screen if necessary.
- A first aid kit will be available in the event of minor injuries being sustained. Team leader will have a mobile telephone which can be used to summon the emergency services, should it be required.
- Litter pickers should be used to collect rubbish whenever possible, to avoid handpicking.
- Any heavy objects discovered that are beyond the lifting capabilities of the team should be left and referred back to team leaders, in order that further arrangements can be made for their safe removal via the Local Authority.
- Should any syringes or other hazardous objects be found (such as car batteries or chemicals) be found, they should not be picked up by participants and should be referred back to the team leader so that suitable arrangements can be made for their safe removal via the Local Authority.
- Good hygiene practices should be adopted and participants will be advised to wash hands after handling rubbish and before eating / drinking etc.
- Participants should be considerate to others whilst working on site and remain aware of people around them.
- Participants should work as a group and not break off alone from the main group.
- Should any challenging behaviour be encountered participants should withdraw and inform the team leader, so that appropriate action can be considered, such as contacting the police.
- Participants should not challenge members of the public.
- No lone working will be allowed during the clean up, with all participants working as part of a team. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and Team Leaders should remain aware of the whereabouts of their teams throughout the clean up.
- A location will identified prior to the cleanup where rubbish bags will be located, ready for collection. This will be in a sensible position and away from footpaths so as not to create an obstruction or trip hazard.