

# **SAFETY GUIDELINES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

*to be reviewed before cleanup begins when working on projects organized by the  
Clarke County Litter Committee*

1. The event location where litter is being removed should be examined on the day of the week and during the hours intended for the cleanup to determine if the conditions during those times are appropriate for the ages and abilities of the participants. Be aware of any large ruts in the ground, pipes, and/or water areas as they could be a hazard.
2. All participants are responsible for abiding by these guidelines and responsibilities. For emergencies, it is recommended that someone in the group have the availability of a working cell phone, an adequate first aid kit, and transportation immediately accessible. Know your location and do not hesitate to dial 911.
3. Minors under the age of 18 may participate if their *Agreement to Participate and Release* form was signed by a parent/guardian and is on file with The County. Groups must have at least one (1) adult supervisor at the site when minors are present.
4. Participants are responsible for placing the “*Roadside Cleanup Ahead*” or similar signs before each cleanup and removing the signs after completion of the cleanup.
5. Carpooling to the cleanup site is encouraged to keep roadside parking to a minimum. Park as far from the road’s edge as possible.
6. It is mandatory to wear the supplied reflective safety vest as soon as you leave the car so you are immediately visible to motorists. In addition, wear brightly colored clothing that protects your arms and legs, substantial shoes or boots and gloves. Never wear sandals or open-toed shoes. An LED light attached to your shirt, jacket, arm, backpack, etc. helps ensure you can be clearly seen from both the front and back sides and a hat helps to avoid sunburn.
7. Always walk facing traffic and stay with the group. This will be a constant reminder of the danger ahead of you, allow you to see a dangerous situation before it reaches you, and drivers are more apt to pay attention to a person on the road if they can see a face.
8. Avoid the use of headphones, iPods, cell phones or any wireless device that could interfere with the ability to hear oncoming traffic, safety warnings or other potential dangers.
9. Take plenty of breaks, drink fluids and don’t overexert.
10. Work during daylight hours only. Stop working in bad weather including but not limited to fog, wet roads, and electrical storms.
11. DO NOT spray any pesticides on the adopted section.
12. Guidelines for Picking up Litter:
  - Knives, machetes, axes, etc. should not be carried by participants.
  - Avoid contact with poison ivy and animals.

- You may place recyclable items in separate bags.
- DO NOT pick up litter in the roadway, close to the edge of the road, in median strips, in construction or maintenance sites, in tunnels or bridges.
- DO NOT throw, discharge or otherwise deposit anything liquid or solid into the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, stream, pool or any body of water, or in any storm sewer, sanitary sewer or drain.
- DO NOT overfill or compact trash bags because of the danger of injuries from broken or jagged objects. Fill bags with what goes in easily, and then start with a new bag. Items may be stacked outside of a closed bag if they have dull, pointed edges that might tear the bag or large items that might prevent the bag from closing properly. Never lift anything too heavy.
- DO NOT pick up cardboard boxes with bare hands as this could be a snake's or another animal's home.
- DO NOT pick up discarded syringes, hypodermic needles, items that have "potentially infectious waste" written on them, suspected hazardous materials or suspected toxic substances. Please notify the Clarke County Sheriff's Department at their non-emergency number (540) 955-1234.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT ALONE**

13. Participants shall remove the trash collected themselves or choose to place all closed trash bags and items on the shoulder of the adopted area at least two feet from the traveled area. Notify VDOT if bags and items need to be collected.

14. When cleanup is complete return all VDOT-supplied items and notify Clarke County Staff of the quantity of litter collected and include any other information such as observations of hazardous materials.

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I have read and understand the Safety Guidelines and Responsibilities of participants in Clarke County Litter Committee events; and, affirm to adhere to such.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

# AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE AND RELEASE

By deciding to participate in this Clarke County Litter Committee activity, I understand and acknowledge the accident risk factors involved. I know my own physical capabilities, and I assume all risk and liability in order to participate in these litter cleaning activities.

I realize that my participation in this activity involves risk of injury, including risks resulting from but not limited to contact with dangerous items and substances, such as sharp objects, heavy/hard to handle garbage, animals, animal feces, insects, water, marshes, bogs, electric fences, dangerous terrain and plants, such as poison ivy/oak. I also realize that when working near roadways, vehicular traffic poses risk of injuries and even the possibility of death. Additional risks can include, but are not limited to, delayed muscle soreness, contusions, abrasions, and cuts. Also, I recognize that there are many other risks of injury including serious and disabling injuries, which may arise due to my participation in this activity, and that it is not possible to specifically list each and every individual injury risk. By signing this form, I desire, consent and voluntarily choose to take part in these litter cleaning activities.

Knowing the material risks and reasonably anticipating that other injuries are a possibility, I assume all the risks normally incident to the nature of these activities and agree that neither Clarke County nor any of its officers, agents, and employees will be responsible for any damages or injuries resulting to me. Also, I understand that any injury incurred and the resulting medical expense from that injury will be my responsibility and Clarke County will not be responsible for any related expenses.

In consideration of the County allowing me to participate in this and/or future litter cleaning events, I do hereby for myself, my heirs, executor, administrators, and assigns, forever release and discharge Clarke County, its officers, employees, and agents from any and all claims, complaints, demands, actions, causes of actions, and suits at law or equity, for and on account of any accidents, injuries, disabilities, death, property damage, and all losses and expenses of any nature whatsoever that may be sustained by me or anyone below as a result of my participation in this litter cleaning activity.

Signed (Participant) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Parent/Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if participant is 18 years of age and younger)*

Print \_\_\_\_\_

Individual/Group/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**This form is valid through the end of the calendar year of the year signed.**