Pend Oreille County Litter Crew Safety Information

Safety First

While volunteer help is greatly appreciated, safety is Pend Oreille County’s number one concern. Pend Oreille County’s Adopt-a-County-Road program has an outstanding safety record, and we want to keep it that way.

All groups are required to watch a safety video and read through the safety tips below before their initial litter pickup event. In addition, safety equipment is loaned to all groups for use while picking up litter. Pend Oreille County provides bright orange vests, hard hats, traffic signs, flagging tape and trash bags.

Tips for volunteer groups include:

- Carpool to the adopted section and pull vehicles as far off the side of the road as possible
- Have a first-aid kit on hand and a person who has a valid first-aid card
- Do not pick up heavy items or hazardous materials; mark the item or area with a flag and call the Adopt-a-County-Road Coordinator for safe disposal of such objects

Safety Tips

Wear appropriate clothing during cleanup
Make yourself visible to the traveling public and protect yourself from various weather conditions or possible injury. Be sure everyone in the group wears:

- Safety hat and bright orange vest
- Gloves
- Long sleeved shirt and long pants
- Thick-soled boots or shoes

Preparing for litter cleanup
Before litter pickup begins, always set up a temporary "Volunteer Litter Crew Ahead" sign and park a buffer vehicle (with the emergency flasher lights blinking) ahead of the adopted road section (see Litter Crew Traffic Control Plan).

Before each event, the group leader will conduct a refresher safety review for crew members. All participants must be 18 years of age or older to participate in a litter pickup. We recommend you take a first-aid kit appropriate for the size of the crew with a listing of the location and phone numbers for local emergency services. At least one person should have a valid first-aid card.

Carpool when you transport crew members to the adopted road section using no more than two vehicles when possible. Vehicles should be parked off the shoulder when conditions permit, otherwise park with no more than two wheels on the paved shoulder. The group leader should be familiar with the most direct route to the hospital and park at least one vehicle nearby in case of an emergency.
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While picking up
Be safe and always use caution. At all times:

- Watch your footing, stay off rocky, steep or unstable slopes
- Avoid poison ivy, poison oak, blackberries and other thorny plants
- Watch out for stinging insects
- Walk single file across bridges
- Carry a box for broken glass or other sharp objects
- Avoid over exertion; rest when needed
- Drink plenty of water and use sunscreen on warm, sunny days
- PLEASE RECYCLE!!! Recycle any appropriate materials found during your litter pickup. This will reduce disposal costs to the County. If your group chooses to sell the recycled items found, all profits belong to your group.

Don't forget the paperwork
Medical Aid Coverage Records (Volunteer Rosters) need to be properly filled out every time you have a litter pickup event on the roadside and must be turned in to Pend Oreille County seven days after pickup. Any injuries must be reported to Pend Oreille County within two working days of their occurrence. In the event of an emergency or accident during a litter pickup event, immediately dial 9-1-1 for Emergency personnel.

For your safety, remember:

- Don't use walkman or IPod headsets which interfere with hearing and warnings
- Don't engage in horseplay or pranks endangering the safety of yourself, fellow members or the traveling public
- Don't cross the roadway on foot. Get in a vehicle and get out on the same side as the litter pickup will take place. No U-turns at intersections or highway interchanges. Turn off the vehicle emergency flasher warning lights while traveling to and from the work site
- Don't pick up litter on the actual roadway
- Don't pick up litter on bridges, tunnels or overpasses
- Don't compact trash bags -- injuries from sharp or broken objects may result and/or the bag may burst
- Don't carry knives, machetes, axes, etc.
- Don't pick up syringes or hypodermic needles; but do flag the location and notify the Adopt-a-County-Road Coordinator for safe disposal of such objects
- Never pick up exceptionally heavy or awkward objects, dead animals, or suspected toxic or hazardous materials. Instead, flag the location and notify the Adopt-a-County-Road Coordinator for safe disposal of such objects.

If your group has any further questions regarding safety tips or litter control, please contact the Pend Oreille County Adopt-a-County-Road Coordinator at 509-447-4513.
GENERAL NOTES

1. LITTER CREW PERSONNEL ARE TO REMAIN OFF THE PAVED SHOULDERS.

LEGEND

- M  SIGN LOCATION
- W  CREW VEHICLE W/ LIGHT

LITTER CREW TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN
TWO-LANE / TWO-WAY ROADWAY

(REVISED FEBRUARY 2008)