



## Cleanup Safety Guidelines

- Separate volunteers into smaller groups if possible. Don't cross the roadway during a cleanup. Concentrate on cleaning one side of the road first.
- Always try to work facing traffic in order to be aware of actions of oncoming traffic. Place warning signs at either end of the area being cleaned to warn motorists. Do not work during times of heavy traffic, during rain, at dusk or after dark.
- Wear gloves to avoid cuts and scrapes. Wear sturdy boots or shoes to protect from glass that may be on the ground.
- Avoid wearing headphones in order to be more aware of traffic and to hear emergency vehicles.
- Leave bags of litter several feet from the edge of the road, in a central location and away from curves. This will help crews that pick-up the bags.
- Do not fill bags too full of material. Heavy bags will tear when they are moved. Do not squeeze bags to get air out. Glass in the bags could injure work crews.
- Do not pick up hazardous items: hypodermic needles, chemicals or dead animals. Garbage with a chemical odor or containing certain items together may be garbage from a meth lab (2 liter bottles, lithium batteries, cold tablets, coffee filters). Suspicious items should be reported to 574-LMPD.
- Do not attempt to move large items such as appliances or barrels. Note the location for crews when you call in to have the litter bags picked up.
- If children are participating in the cleanup, designate a park, sidewalk or green space for them to clean. Do not assign children to clean roadways.
- Volunteers working with youth/children must follow the procedures defined by your organization. Some organizations may require background checks and specify an appropriate youth-adult ratio for safety and mentoring.
- Be aware of weather conditions: drink plenty of water in hot weather. Avoid over exertion and danger of heatstroke. Dress for the weather.