



## **ADOPT-A-STREET Safety Considerations**

### Participants

Volunteers are to be at least 12 years of age. They should not have a medical condition, which might be worsened due to some aspect of the project nor a physical impairment, which would create difficulties in following the safety guidelines. When youth are involved there should be a ratio of one adult to four youth.

### Safety and Health Precautions

Volunteers are to be reminded of safety precautions prior to the clean-up and should have another review of procedures before beginning the project. Remember to obey all traffic laws.

- ◆ *Parking:* Never park on the edge of a street or on the berm. If pulling completely off the street is a problem, look for a driveway, mailbox pullover or other location to park. Obtain the owners permission when parking in a driveway. Car pool to reduce the number of vehicles required.
- ◆ *Attire:* Orange, reflective safety vests shall be worn by all participants. Wearing a hat, sun screen, a light colored long-sleeved shirt and pants may prevent sunburn and poison ivy. Sun glasses will protect the eyes from the sun and airborne debris caused by traffic.

Sturdy hard-soled shoes with ankle support and protective gloves may eliminate punctures from nails, broken glass, etc. Wearing insect repellent may prevent some discomfort from bites. Bring rain gear if there is a possibility of showers.

- ◆ *Personal Behavior:* Always face on-coming traffic and stay away from construction or maintenance activities. No horseplay is to be allowed near the street or while collecting. Participants shall remain alert in case they are signaled to move or react quickly.
- ◆ *Detecting Hazards and Emergency Procedures:* Assign a reliable person to watch for potential traffic problems or approaching inclement weather. Give the person an air horn, whistle or some signaling device to use to alert the work group. If possible, bring a cellular phone to contact 911 or local authorities.

A list of emergency phone numbers (e.g. fire department, police office and rescue squad) shall be available on site.

- ◆ *Comfort Provisions:* Bring plenty of cold water and few high energy snacks. Provide access to a restroom or a portable toilet, if possible.

### Collecting Litter and Recyclable Materials

All participants should stay on public property and only pick up materials that they can easily reach. If they encounter a dangerous or unsanitary item such as a weapon, hypodermic needle, hazardous material, or a dead animal, they should not touch the item. Instead, they should notify their supervisor and the supervisor can contact the appropriate authorities. Large items, such as furniture and construction debris, should also be reported to the supervisor. Tagging large items with a visible marker will help authorities locate them for later pick-up.

Show participants a sample of poison ivy and tell them to avoid contact with the plant and other noxious weeds. In addition, they should be shown pictures of any poisonous snakes or insects they may likely encounter and will want to avoid.

Before picking up containers, old logs or tires, participants should kick or hit the item to dislodge any small animals such as mice or snakes. They should also be on alert for stinging insects and ticks.

Don't collect during low visibility periods, such as fog, heavy rain or dusk. Avoid getting wet or chilled if the temperature is below 70 degrees. Work slowly and with frequent breaks when the temperature is over 85 degrees and cease working if the temperature is over 95 degrees.

Be extremely cautious when crossing a low-to-moderate street on foot and never attempt to cross a busy street on foot. Always, collect from one side of the roadway at a time and always face traffic.

Wash your hands carefully after completing the collection.

**By pre-planning, reviewing and conducting a final reminder session covering these cautions and procedures, your volunteers will have a safe and enjoyable experience!**