

Volunteer Safety Guidelines

Remember volunteers are responsible for their own safety

Volunteers Must...

- Wear a safety vest at all times so you are visible to drivers.
- Be aware of oncoming traffic. Stay on the right-of-way, facing traffic. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Be cautious when crossing roadways. Use crosswalks and signals whenever possible.
- Watch footing when walking on slopes and be cautious of holes and obstacles. Be careful of unexpected holes or ditches.
- Be aware of your surroundings and location at all times.
- Wear gloves at all times when handling litter.
- Have at least one adult supervisor for every eight youth volunteers, ages 8 to 17.
- Stay clear of construction projects, mowing operations and maintenance activities.
- Work only during daylight hours and when weather is conducive to good visibility.
- Have access to a cellular phone in the event of an emergency.
- Leave the area or dial 911 if you encounter a dangerous situation.
- Tie bags tightly after the bags are full.
- Wash your hands thoroughly when project is completed.
- Return all safety equipment to the City

Volunteers Should...

- Wear light or bright colored clothing, long sleeves, long pants, thick-soled shoes or boots (closed-toe shoes), gloves, and hat.
- Drink water to prevent dehydration.
- Wear sunscreen.
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects, ticks, poison ivy and stray/wild animals.
- Be careful when using a litter-pickup stick.
- Lift all objects with your legs, not your back.
- Carpool to work sites to reduce the number of vehicles on roadsides. Park all vehicles off roadways and shoulders. And when possible, unload work crews on roadsides rather than on shoulders or highways.
- Avoid all horseplay or demonstrations of any nature.
- Work with a partner whenever possible.
- Be aware of any special needs of fellow volunteers.

- Avoid overexertion and take breaks if needed.
- Avoid peak traffic hours and inclement weather conditions
- Stay clear of all construction areas and private property
- Keep a first aid kit available.

Volunteers Do Not...

- Pick up litter close to the edge of curbs unless oncoming traffic is clearly visible.
- Pick up litter in construction or maintenance sites.
- Work on roadways, shoulders, medians, bridges or inside tunnels.
- Pick up materials that appear to be hazardous, such as needles, bloody objects or drug paraphernalia. Advise City staff of the object in question to be removed safely by staff.
- Pick up firearms or explosive devices.
- Pick up dead animals.
- Do not drink alcohol prior to or while participating in clean-up events. Be in good physical condition and in no way impaired (be mindful of using over the counter and prescription medications while participating).
- Wear music headsets that would prevent you from hearing an approaching motorist or bicyclist.
- Overexert yourself. Be sure to take breaks, drink liquids, and dress appropriately for the weather.
- Overstuff litter bags, or compact them.
- Stomp on trash bags. Injuries may occur from broken glass or sharp objects. Stomping may cause sharp objects to puncture the bag.
- Distract drivers, run, throw objects, or engage in horseplay.
- Destroy sprinkler heads, stand or jump on guardrails, drainage pipes, walls, or equipment.

Volunteers Remember Safety First...

- Be sure each crew has a first-aid kit.
- Have transportation available at all times.
- Know the location of and route to the nearest hospital or emergency room.
- Keep at least one cell phone with the group at all times, if possible.
- We suggest you take a certified first-aid class.