

Litter Picking Risk Assessment Template for Community Groups

Community Group:		Date of Assessment:	
Name of Assessor:		Date of Review:	

No	Hazard and Potential Consequences	Persons at Risk	Control Measures	Additional Control Measures Necessary	Risk Rating (High, Medium, Low)
1	Physical Hazards present at site e.g. Drowning in river or falling down steep slope	Participants	Organiser to carry out a pre-site visit to ensure that the area is suitable and carry out a suitable risk assessment. Litter picking should not be carried out in areas where there is a high risk to participants. Areas that would be unsuitable include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anywhere within unguarded access to deep or fast flowing water (e.g. rivers) ▪ Highway or roadside areas without vehicle segregation (fencing) ▪ Steep, slippery or unstable ground (including those with holes or excavations) ▪ Areas around and within derelict (and potentially unstable) buildings 	Where possible, use tape to cordon off any dangerous areas on site and ensure participants are informed that access to taped areas is prohibited. Where there is a high level of risk, find a more suitable site to carry out the litter pick. For further information and guidance, please refer to https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/volunteer/litter-heroes/clean-preparation-and-safety-advice	
2	Sharp Objects - Glass, needles, nails etc. e.g. Needle stick injury leading to Hepatitis B	Participants	Anyone undertaking litter picks must follow correct procedure and instructions. This should include a 'Sharps Procedure' that should be communicated to participants; if discovered, needles must not be picked up or touched under any circumstances. Location should be noted and your local waste collection service contacted Participants should be informed beforehand of the need to wear strong, sensible footwear (boots, Wellingtons) with adequate grip - no open-toe footwear should be allowed. Participants to be provided with correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including heavy duty protective Gloves, Litter Pickers, High Visibility Vests.	Organiser/team leader to give pre-activity briefing session with all participants to include procedures/instructions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedure for hypodermic needles ▪ Participants instructed not to pick up litter with hands - use Litter Picker at all times 	
3	Hygiene and potential contact with Biohazards Objects - faeces, vomit and used condoms E.g. Dog Faeces	Participants	Anyone undertaking litter picks must follow correct procedure and instructions. This should include a 'Biohazards Procedure', which should be communicated to participants; E.g. If discovered, do not attempt to clean up. Make a note of the location and report it to your local waste collection service. Participants should be informed beforehand of the need to wear suitable outdoor clothing that does not expose bare areas of skin. Participants to be instructed to wash hands and forearms before	Organiser/team leader to give pre-activity briefing session with all participants to include procedures/instructions/information, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General awareness of bio-hazards (e.g. what they are and why they're dangerous) ▪ Instruction not to pick up or handle any bio-hazard. ▪ Contact details of the Clean Team Ensure adequate first aid arrangements have been	

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	potentially leading to infection i.e. 'toxocarriasis' . Contraction of 'Weils disease' from rat urine.		eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet. Participants instructed to cover any cuts, however minor, with surgical tape or waterproof plasters	provided (proportionate to the level of risk). As a minimum a first aid kit with waterproof plasters should be available. At least one member of the group should have access to a phone in order to call for emergency assistance in the event of a group member being injured or falling ill.	
4	Contamination from chemicals onsite e.g. Poisoning from insecticides	Participants	Anyone undertaking litter picks must follow correct procedure and instructions. This should include a 'Chemicals Procedure', which should be communicated to participants; E.g. If discovered, do not attempt to clean up. Make a note of the location and report it to your local waste collection service	Organiser/team leader to give pre-activity briefing session with all participants to include procedures for the discovery of chemicals or chemical containers on site.	
5	Slips Trips and Falls e.g. Sprained Ankle from tripping over rough terrain	Participants	Organiser to carry out a pre-site visit to ensure that the area is suitable and carry out a suitable risk assessment. Anyone undertaking litter picks must follow correct procedure and be wearing correct PPE. Participants should be informed beforehand of the need to wear strong, sensible footwear (boots, Wellingtons) with adequate grip - no open-toe footwear should be allowed.	Ensure any significant findings of the risk assessment are communicated to participants prior to carrying out activity. Where possible, use tape to cordon off any dangerous areas, including slip/trip hazards on site and ensure participants are informed that access to this area is prohibited.	
6	Manual Handling e.g. Back injury from people attempting to move heavy objects such as Branches	Participants	Participants should be informed of the dangers of manual handling and instructed to assess the load before handling. Heavy items should be notified to your local waste collection service for collection. Wear appropriate PPE including protective gloves, trousers and sturdy footwear to protect hands, legs and feet. Minimise repetitive bending wherever possible and ensure participants take regular breaks. Prior to activity make arrangements with your local waste collection service on collection points for rubbish, wherever possible minimising manual handling for participants by suitably locating collection points.	Organiser/team leader to give pre-activity briefing session with all participants to include instructions on manual handling, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not to lift unless comfortable in doing so ▪ Young persons and others at significant risk (e.g. persons with a previous back injury) instructed not to lift heavy weights. ▪ All lifting by young persons to be supervised. ▪ Wherever possible, lift items with assistance rather than alone ▪ Be aware and careful in case sharp objects are protruding from sacks. 	

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7	Weather Issues e.g. extremes of weather can cause injuries such as wind blown debris	Participants	Participants should be informed beforehand of the need to wear sensible outdoor clothing, including trousers and warm clothing where appropriate. Organiser/team leader to cancel activity if there is extreme weather (e.g. high winds, rain, snow etc) Ensure there is an adequate supply of water to prevent dehydration.	Organiser/team leader to give pre-activity briefing session with all participants to cover, where applicable, working in the heat (need to keep hydrated and avoiding sunburn)	
8	Aggressive People e.g. Assaulted by member of public	Participants	Participants should be informed to cease litter picking if they encounter anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable or that is acting suspiciously and report back to the organiser/team leader. Participants should always work in teams and should not work alone at any time during the activity.		
9	Natural Hazards including pollen, dangerous plants cuts from thorns, Wasp & Bee nests, e.g. Skin rash from plants, bee sting resulting in anaphylactic shock	Participants	Organiser to carry out a pre-site visit to ensure that the area does not contain any dangerous plants or wasp or bee nests. Participants should be informed beforehand of the need to wear appropriate PPE (including protective gloves) and sensible outdoor clothing and footwear, keeping hands, arms and legs covered. Participants to be instructed to wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet.	Ensure adequate first aid arrangements have been provided (proportionate to the level of risk). As a minimum a first aid kit with waterproof plasters should be available. At least one member of the group should have access to a phone in order to call for emergency assistance in the event of a group member being injured or falling ill as a result of an allergic reaction.	
10	Vehicle Movements e.g. Fatality or major injury caused by moving vehicle	Participants	Litter Picking should not be undertaken on highway or within close, unguarded proximity to roads or areas where there are moving vehicles. Participants should be informed beforehand of the need to wear appropriate PPE including florescent high-visibility vests.		

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11	Lone Working E.g. Anyone lone working sustaining an injury may not receive medical assistance, and thus condition may worsen as team are unaware they have been injured.	Participants	Participants should always work in teams and should not work alone at any time during the activity.	Ensure there is a facility for participants to sign in and out.	
12	Young Persons and lack of awareness e.g. A young person taking unnecessary risks resulting in injury	Participants, particularly young persons	Organiser to carry out a pre-site visit to ensure that the area is suitable for young persons. Organiser to carry out a suitable risk assessment and ensure all participants (including young persons) are given health and safety checklist and instructions. Age plays a big part in the ability to recognise and avoid risk. Accordingly, where young persons are participating, there should be adequate supervision at all times (e.g. a minimum of 1 responsible adult to every 10 young persons). There should be no groups of children under the age of 16 working in an area without direct supervision of an adult.	Where young persons and/or children are involved, the group leader must take specific time to explain procedures and take particular care to describe and point out the potential hazards identified within the risk assessment.	

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