

# Basic Safety Tips

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## **Groups**

- ➔ Each group will be responsible for examining the roadside on the day and hours the group intends to perform clean up, to determine safety of the roadway. Clean ups will not be allowed during hours of darkness, peak traffic, periods of active roadway construction or maintenance, state holidays or weather conditions that interfere with visibility.
  
- ➔ **One person should be designated crew leader** to ensure safety rules are followed by everyone. This person must also complete 1 safety meeting per year with Jefferson County.
  
- ➔ **Be alert and use common sense** at all times! Some road traffic travels at high speeds, and most drivers don't expect to see crews working along the roadsides. There should not be any horseplay, practical jokes, or endangering of your own or another's personal safety.
  
- ➔ **Crew members should be in good health** with good sight and hearing. Avoid the use of walkmans, ipods and/or cd players that could interfere with the ability to hear oncoming traffic, safety warnings or other potential hazards.
  
- ➔ **Crew members under 17 years of age must** have adult supervision at a ratio of one adult for every three children.
  
- ➔ **Keep crews together** for better visibility to motorists. Post a person to look out for traffic dangers. It's best to work in groups of 3-4 people.
  
- ➔ **Group sizes should not exceed 15** participants because this could distract the driving public.
  
- ➔ **Carpool to the site** to reduce the number of vehicles on the roadside.

## **Parking**

- **Do not use crossovers** in the median to turn your vehicle around; instead, use the next exit ramp.
- **All vehicles should be parked** well off the right shoulder. Do not park on paved shoulders.
- **Parking is not allowed** along curves, on bridges, near or under overpasses, or in highway medians.
- **Work only one side of the road at a time.** Keep vehicles on the same side of the road as crew members. Do not wander onto private property.
- **All occupants** in vehicles should exit and enter the vehicle on the side opposite traffic.

## **Safety**

- **Never** walk out on the road.
- **Don't enter the roadway** or the shoulder areas to pick up trash.
- **Don't pick up litter on the medians** of the limited access roads, on bridges, in tunnels or on overpasses. These areas are especially dangerous to workers on foot.
- **Never go into the water** or pipes to pick up trash.
- **Avoid areas which are being mowed** or where other construction or maintenance activities are being conducted. Also avoid contact with areas where herbicides have been applied.
- **Watch your footing.** Stay off loose stones and steep slopes.
- **Face oncoming traffic as you work** whenever possible. Be prepared to move out of the way of vehicles in an emergency.
- **Knives, machetes, axes, etc. should not be carried** by crew members.
- **Don't overfill or compact trash bags** because of the danger of injuries from broken or jagged objects. Fill bags with what goes in easily, and then start with a new bag.
- **Always** bring a stick or rod with you to roll an object over before picking it up. Snakes and scorpions make homes under cardboard boxes and other items found on the roadside.
- **Never** lift anything that is too heavy for you – get help with the big things. When lifting a heavy load, lift with your legs, not your back.
- **Work during daylight hours ONLY.** Stop working in bad weather, especially when there is poor visibility and wet or icy roads, during electrical storms, and during other than daylight conditions.

- **Avoid overexertion.** Drink lots of water, especially on hot, humid days
- **Avoid contact with poison ivy** and oak as well as dead animals.
- **Don't pick up discarded syringes** or hypodermic needles, or broken glass OR any other dangerous object.
- **Don't try to remove unknown or suspected hazardous materials / toxic substances.** For example, if you come across such items as containers with placards or hazardous symbols, containers with hoses duct taped to spouts, empty starter fluid cans, propane tanks with discolored valves, coffee filters or bags containing a grayish/white substance. This also includes urine bottles. Notify the precinct or if needed the Sheriff's Office or Environmental Control
- **Criminal Evidence:** Large Debris piles that have been illegally dumped may contain evidence that could be useful to Jefferson County Environmental Control or law enforcement. If mail or similar products with names and addresses, or illegal materials are observed please notify the Precinct or if needed the Environmental Control department.
- **Carefully Handle Bottles and similar containers.** They may contain **HUMAN WASTE.**
- **Never pick up any item that has potentially infectious waste on it** – blood or other bodily fluids.
- **Never pick up an old cardboard box with your bare hands.** This could be a snake's home or another creature's home.
- **In case of emergency**  
Be prepared for serious injury. Every crew should have an adequate first aid kit. Select an emergency room/hospital and know the route to it from the work area. Every crew member should have transportation immediately accessible. Use a vehicle with a cellular phone or CB radio if available. Know your location and do not hesitate to dial 911

### **Dress Code**

- **All workers must wear orange vests** while working on the roadside. Other clothing should be light colored for increased visibility. Additional gloves should be wear at all times when picking up trash.
- **Wear substantial leather shoes** or boots with good ankle support. Never wear sandals or open toe shoes.
- **Wear a hat and long sleeves to avoid sunburn.** You may want to use a sunscreen lotion on sunny days. Early morning hours work best before the sun is too hot. Make sure you wear heavy gloves, to protect your hands.

**Emergency Phone Numbers**

911	<u>All Emergencies</u> = Name / Location / Type of Emergency
409-835-8411	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office <u>Non-Emergency</u> Dispatch
409-719-5910	Jefferson County Environmental Control

**Non Emergency Phone Numbers**

409-727-2173	Commissioner Brent Weaver Pct. #2
409-719-5910	Jefferson County Environmental Control