



Release of Liability

With prior notice and scheduling, Thurston County Roads and Transportation Services Department provides a first aid kit, warning signs, portable strobe lights, safety vests, gloves, litter grabbers, traffic cones, litter bags, and pick up and transport of collected litter to the landfill for volunteer groups that perform litter cleanup along County roadways.

Thurston County does not provide supervision to volunteer groups and will not assume liability for any accident or injury to volunteers.

The undersigned agrees to return all borrowed safety equipment to Thurston County Solid Waste Division and agrees not to hold Thurston County liable for any legal actions arising from these volunteer efforts.

Volunteer Coordinator: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Organization/Group: _____

Date: _____

Volunteer Signature: _____



GROUP VOLUNTEER - SAFETY GUIDELINES

Safety guidelines for litter control workers have been developed by the Washington State Department of Ecology, Department of Transportation, Thurston County Public Works Department, and Thurston County Roads and Transportation Services Department. The following list describes recommended safety procedures for volunteer litter cleanup workers:

- (1) Advanced warning signs and traffic cones shall be in place (approximately 3 feet from the lane edge) prior to beginning litter pick up efforts. Volunteers will work only inside the marked safety area. Cleanup will be conducted along the County Road right-of-way only. Cleanup of private property is prohibited.
- (2) Safety vests must be worn at all times.
- (3) Volunteers shall not work both sides of the roadway at the same time and should conduct litter pick up toward the flow of traffic. Volunteers should not cross or enter traffic lanes except at crosswalks or intersections.
- (4) The vehicle hazard flashers on personal volunteer vehicle(s) shall be working whenever the vehicle is parked or moving along the roadway shoulder. Portable strobe warning lights, which can be plugged into the cigarette lighter, are available for volunteer Supervisors.
- (5) Bags and other materials which are picked up shall be placed well away from traffic lanes. They will not be placed on paved shoulder areas, and shall at all times be visible to motorists and Solid Waste Division personnel who will pick them up. Bags must be tied and should not contain more than 50 pounds of litter (nor rocks or concrete please).
- (6) The following items will never be touched or transported. Note and mark the location of the item and report it to Thurston County Central Dispatch (911).
 - (a) Firearms or other dangerous weapons.
 - (b) Explosive devices.
 - (c) Medical waste or syringes.
 - (d) Suspected dangerous or hazardous waste containers.
 - (e) Injured, dead, or lost animals (Thurston County Animal Services - 360 352-2510).
- (7) Never reach or crawl into crevices, brush, or under rocks or structures to retrieve debris. Always use a tool when necessary or if something is just out of arms reach. Never enter abandoned vehicles or RVs.

- (8) Volunteers shall not be assigned to roads that have been sprayed with chemicals within the past (7) days.
- (9) Please keep an eye out for areas where snakes, harmful insects, or other wildlife may be present. If you encounter them, give them their space and alert those in your party to the presence of any of these creatures. Also be on the lookout for harmful plants such as: poison ivy, poison oak, thorns, vines etc. Please wear gloves to avoid contact.
- (10) Volunteers may clean under bridges; however, because of a lack of safe escape, they are not to work on bridges.
- (11) When cleaning up in public spaces, please remember to be respectful of persons experiencing homelessness and to leave camps and personal property items in place. Be mindful of personal safety and do not clean within 20 feet of tents and encampments.
- (12) Bring water for hydration and a snack, however, because of the material crew members will be handling, they should be encouraged to wash their hands prior to taking rest or lunch breaks, and avoid touching their face.
- (13) Volunteers should dress appropriately for the work activities and weather conditions. Because of the condition of most shoulders, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, gloves, and closed-toe, hard-soled shoes should be worn. Wear hats, caps, and sunglasses as appropriate. Be prepared for inclement weather by bringing additional clothing or shoes as appropriate. Group leaders should make sure that everyone in their group is wearing appropriate footwear.
- (14) Make sure to bring an insect repellent and/or sunscreen for your safety and health.
- (15) When attending an organized cleanup event, make sure your belongings and valuables are secure or simply leave them at home. Thurston County will not be responsible for your lost or stolen valuables.
- (16) Volunteers cannot place their trust in passing motorists and must assume a maximum commitment to personal and group safety.

SUGGESTED CREW DISPERSAL METHOD:

Please utilize the drop-off method for crew dispersal. Start by placing the beginning warning sign and then the first traffic cone 300' from the sign. The Supervisor then drives along the shoulder dropping off crew members with a traffic cone every 300' from the beginning cone. The ending warning sign is placed 300' from the last cone placed and the Supervisor returns to the starting point and begins picking up crew members. Crew members will work facing traffic and cover the area between their cone and the next crew member's cone. When they have covered their assigned area, they will wait until pick up by the Supervisor.

Please contact the Solid Waste Division at 360-490-8765 when you have completed your clean-up project so collected litter may be picked up and transported to the landfill.

By helping to clean up the litter along our roadways, you are providing a needed service to our community. We thank you for your efforts and concern for our environment Please be careful and safety conscious at all times.