

MONAGHAN TIDY TOWNS LITTER VIGILANTE RISK ASSESSMENT



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The following risk assessment covers general hazards that may be encountered when litter picking. The event organiser should read through the risk assessment prior to the event and consider if any further action is necessary. They should also carry out a recce at the site and complete the final section, detailing any location specific additional hazards, which might need to be considered. Following this, the event organiser must ensure any additional hazards are discussed in the health and safety briefing at the event.

Event Organiser Name:	Assessment Date:	Review Date:
Area:	Identify People at Risk:	

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom? (Full Name)	Action by when?	Done (Must be YES and include date)
Lack of information and awareness	Volunteers not knowing safety procedures or who first aiders are	Prior to the litter-pick taking place, all volunteers should be given a Briefing and Safety Talk, covering the any risks and general information about correct use of the equipment, any particular issues to be aware of regarding the site, muster points etc. Event Organiser may take a roll-call prior to litter-pick taking place.	None	Event organiser	On the day	
Safeguarding children	Children and vulnerable adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children up to the age of 18 and any vulnerable adults to be accompanied by responsible adult (parent, carer or teacher) in approved ratios No child to be out of sight of a responsible adult 	Check for unaccompanied supervision ratios 1 – 7- 1 adult to 3 children.	Event organiser	On the day	

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			4 - 12years - 1 adult to 6 children. 13 - 18 years - 1 adult to 10 children.			
Aggression/ abuse from members of the public	Risk of conflict with member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organiser to brief volunteers on how to avoid confrontation – approach members of the public in a non-aggressive way if wishing to challenge their behaviour e.g. littering or dog fouling and do not approach people alone. Do not trespass onto private property whilst litter picking. 	Report any incidents to event organiser	Event organiser	On the day	
Extreme Weather	Volunteers risk sunstroke, sunburn, dehydration and heat exhaustion due to hot weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aider on site with access to First Aid kit Volunteers advised to dress appropriately for weather conditions. Gloves to be worn on all occasions. Advise volunteers to take regular breaks and seek shade if necessary. Volunteers advised to wear sun hats and sun cream, re-apply as needed. Volunteers to have access to water and advised to drink plenty. 	<p>If under 18's are present parent or guardian must supervise closely.</p> <p>Organiser to shorten event duration due to conditions.</p> <p>Organiser to cancel event if weather is extreme Organiser will take account of national weather warnings</p>	Event organiser	On the day	
	Volunteers risk discomfort from cold weather , wind and rain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aider on site with access to First Aid kit Volunteers instructed to wear warm and waterproof clothing, thick socks and sturdy boots Volunteers instructed to avoid areas where debris could come loose, i.e. trees, poorly maintained structures in high winds 	<p>If under 18's are present parent or guardian must supervise closely.</p> <p>Organiser to shorten event duration due to conditions.</p>	Event organiser	On the day	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If lightning occurs, workers and volunteers are instructed to cease using litter pickers and stop the event. • Organiser will take account of weather warnings and may postpone event if necessary 	Organiser to cancel event if weather is extreme. Organiser will take account of national weather warnings			
Vehicles on roads and in car parks	Volunteers risk injury through contact with moving vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to remain under supervision and in sight of a responsible adult at all times, preferably by a parent or guardian. • Children not to pick litter from the road but to remain on pavements and paths. • Prior to event, the organiser to advise volunteers on areas where vehicles maybe present. • Briefing to include warning on roads, speed limits and any known hazards Briefing to include warning to always focus when crossing streets and be aware of surroundings at all times • Be aware of any vehicle, potentially trying to park, maintain vigilance, give warning to others of approaching vehicles • Volunteers advised that they must not work on roads or on roadside verges. • Tabards or hi-vis to be worn at all times. 	Check for any unusual hazards on the day itself	Event organiser	On the day	
Collection of litter – manual handling	Workers and volunteers risk injuries or back pain from handling heavy loads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers instructed not to over-fill bags or try to carry heavy items. • Volunteers advised to be aware of their own limitations by the event organiser during the briefing and not lift heavy items found during the clean-up. • Volunteers with pre-existing injuries are not to lift bags or heavy items. • No more than one bag at a time to be carried. • Under 18's are always supervised by a parent or guardian. 	Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean-up starting.	Event organiser	On the day	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If too heavy to handle, leave the object in place and report it to the organiser to arrange removal by the council. 				
Collection of litter – toxic materials / hazardous chemicals	Volunteers risk coming into contact with toxic or hazardous material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers instructed never to approach suspicious looking containers with or without hazard warning badges. Any suspicious drums, materials or containers with contents not identifiable to be left untouched and council to be contacted. 	Organiser to conduct site survey at beginning of clean up and contact the council if suspicious or possibly hazardous or materials are found.	Event organiser	On the day	
Collection of litter – fly-tipping		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is an accumulation of waste which would obviously have been fly-tipped deliberately, this should be left alone and the council informed. 	Do not litter-pick fly-tipped rubbish.	Event organiser	On the day	
Collection of litter – sharps, syringes and medical waste	Volunteers risk injury from sharp items, infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers finding syringes should not touch them, but notify the event organiser. All work must then cease in this particular area Any accidental piercing by syringe should be immediately treated at medical practice or A&E All volunteers to use litter pickers and gloves. Volunteers instructed never to put sharp objects in bags. Broken glass not to be collected Volunteers advised not to handle sharps, i.e. needles, syringes, unless trained to do so. Volunteers advised to alert organiser if sharps are found 	<p>Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean-up starting.</p> <p>Organisers to check that litter picking tools are in good, clean condition.</p> <p>Remain vigilant at all time during the clean-up and end the clean</p>	Event organiser	On the day	

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			up immediately if syringes are found.			
Accidents and emergencies	Workers risk injury during event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aider available with access to First Aid kit • Event organiser to have mobile phone in case of emergency. • Organiser to replace used first aid items immediately after event, check kit before every event and undertake formal inventory on a quarterly basis 	Organiser to follow guidance for reporting of accidents or injury.	Event organiser	On the day	
Slips, Trips and falls	Volunteers risk slips, trips and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers advised to wear practical, slip resistant footwear. • Take care when negotiating steps • Volunteers advised to take extra care on overgrown areas, rocky areas, wet or muddy areas. • Volunteers instructed to take extra care when carrying heavy bags. • Volunteers advised of any hazardous areas and informed that these are to be avoided. 	Event organiser to remind volunteers to take care when pavements are slippery from rain, leaves, ice, snow etc	Event organiser	On the day	
Trees, shrubs	Trips, cuts & eye pokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aider available with access to First Aid kit • Be aware of low hanging branches and exposed tree and shrub roots. 	Obtain medical attention in the event of injury.		On the day	
Proximity to water, contact with water	Volunteers risk injury or drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers advised to stay away from water's edge, not enter the water & be vigilant of surging waves. 	Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean-up starting.	Event organiser	On the day	

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	Potential for bacterial infection - Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aider on site with access to First Aid kit • Have clean water available to wash hands. • All volunteers to wash hands after activities or use antiseptic wipes. • All volunteers to wear waterproof gloves. • All wounds to be disinfected and dressed promptly. 	<p>Advise of risks of Weil's disease /Leptospirosis in safety talk</p> <p>Advise volunteers to wear gloves or plasters to cover any existing cuts on hands</p>	Event organiser	On the day	
Irritant and dangerous plants	Workers and volunteers risk injury from irritant and dangerous plants, e.g. Giant Hogweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aider on site with access to First Aid kit • Volunteers advised not to touch any potentially irritant and dangerous plants. • If unsure or concerned about presence of irritant and dangerous plants in the area, organiser to advise relevant authority, i.e. Local Authority. 	Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean-up starting.	Event organiser	On the day	
Dog fouling / faeces	Toxocara canis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch dog faeces. • Do not use litter-pickers. • If a volunteer steps in dog faeces, clean shoes if possible • If found warn others in the vicinity • If touched, thoroughly wash your hands. • Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. • Seek medical attention where appropriate. 	Organiser to ensure this is covered in the safety briefing delivered ahead of the clean-up starting.	Event organiser	On the day	
Animals – Domestic, wild & farm	Lyme Disease carried by animal ticks & bites/scratches, stings from animals/ shock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aider with access to First Aid kit • Avoid contact with animals. Avoid contact with animal faeces. • See Guidance on Lyme Disease at https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/gp/antibiotic-prescribing/conditions-and-treatments/skin-soft-tissue/lyme-disease/ • Avoid moving through bracken or vegetation while wearing shorts or short sleeved shirts. 	<p>Seek medical attention as soon as possible after being bitten, stung or scratched.</p> <p>Wash hands immediately. Avoid touching eyes or mouth.</p>	Event organiser	On the day	

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Aggressive dogs	Workers and volunteers risk injury from dog attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Volunteers advised of the threat of aggressive dogs and to not approach any unknown dog. • Avoid areas if any evidence of aggressive dogs • Adopt recommended posture if confronted by a dog – do not look in eyes, look down, do not run, pull limbs into body • Retreat slowly • Visit A&E if bitten or attacked • Report attack to the Gardai if you feel this is necessary: 	<p>Check site for evidence of dogs.</p> <p>Organiser to report any incidents</p>	Event organiser	On the day	
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Site Specific – Please complete as necessary.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom? (Full Name)	Action by when?	Done (Must be YES and include date)
				Event organiser		
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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Needed	PPE Provided by	First Aiders	Nearest Accident and Emergency Department