

## CLEANUP SAFETY GUIDELINES

Your safety is our main priority! The following guidelines are important to ensure you and your group have a safe and effective cleanup, so please read them carefully and adhere to them at all times.

### Be careful when picking up certain items:

- Do not handle any item you are unsure about.
- Do not open any bottles you find.
- Be careful when attempting to remove heavy objects. If they are too heavy, leave them where they are.
- Keep your gloves on at all times while cleaning; do not use bare hands to pick up debris.
- Leave natural items such as bamboo, seashells, wood on the beach.
- Sharp objects such as broken glass should be collected by adults only, and done so very carefully. Do not place sharp objects in plastic trash bags as they may cut through the bag and injure a person. Instead use a sturdy bucket, box or other safe container.
- Keep away from any oil drums found. These may contain dangerous liquids or poisonous vapours. Report the total number and any labels seen to [info@HKcleanup.org](mailto:info@HKcleanup.org). We will alert the government for disposal.

### Pay attention to the weather:

- When there is lightning and thunder, stop work immediately and seek shelter.
- If it is a hot day, ensure all participants drink enough water and if anyone feels fatigued please ensure they sit in the shade and rest.

### Be wary of dangerous site conditions:

- Do a site check prior to the cleanup and inform participants of potential risks such as rough and slippery areas, etc. Please refer to the [Site Check Guidelines](#) below.
- Avoid rocky and slippery areas, especially for children.
- Avoid areas with traffic if possible, best to stay on sidewalks
- Use pedestrian crosswalks when crossing the street

### Participant health and safety:

- A basic first aid kit is highly encouraged for all cleanups.
- Print a list of emergency contacts to have on hand.
- Parental approval is required for participants under 16 of age. Participants under 12 should be accompanied by a participant over 16.
- Do not feed animals.
- Consider bringing antibacterial hand cleanser if hand-washing facilities are not available.
- Sunscreen, hats, drinking water, and sturdy closed-toe shoes are highly recommended.

## SITE CHECK GUIDELINES

We highly recommend that one person from your team conduct a site check prior to your cleanup event. This enables any potential hazards to be identified ahead of time, informs timing and logistic arrangements and any additional items volunteers should bring on the day.

The following questions can be used to guide your pre-cleanup site check:

- Is there a landmark that can be used as a meeting point?
- Are there any trip hazards such as holes, fallen branches, rocks, construction zones or other dangerous areas?
- Are there wet slippery areas that could be hazardous?
- Are there any overhead risks such as overhanging branches or scaffolding that could be dislodged by strong winds?
- Are there any areas of deep, murky or flowing water nearby?
- Do rising tides pose any hazard to your cleanup schedule?
- Are there any wildlife concerns including snakes, spiders, bees, wasps, ticks or bull ants?
- Are there recycling bins in the area for recyclable trash you might collect?
- What time of day is best to clean this site – early in the morning?
- Is the area busy or hard to navigate - could volunteers, especially children, become lost?
- Could volunteers be exposed to contaminated substances/sewage?
- Will vehicles be passing in close proximity?
- Could asthmatics be exposed to excessive pollution, dust or pollen?
- Is the site remote and isolated from emergency assistance?
- Will volunteers be working in direct sun and at risk of possibly getting heat stroke?
- Will there be a large number of children volunteering?
- Will there be any volunteers with disabilities that may affect their ability to conduct a safe cleanup?
- Will there be volunteers that speak a foreign language?

If you have answered “Yes” to any of the above questions, please ensure that you identify and incorporate risk control measures into your event and site briefing.