

POLK COUNTY ADOPT-A-ROAD SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES

Updated 3/2020

Each participant in the Adopt a Road group is required to comply with all laws, rules and regulations relating to safety and use of the road and any other terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the Public Works Department for special conditions on a particular adopted road section. Road cleanup activities are inherently dangerous due to the proximity to traffic on the roadway. The group is responsible for the safety of each member during cleaning activities and to insure adherence to the following guidelines.

Adult supervision is required where minors are involved. By agreeing to adopt a road, the group is certifying that it shall provide one adult supervisor for every six participants between the ages of 12 and 17 years of age. In addition, a Parental Consent Form must be completed and returned to the group coordinator before minors can participate. The group agrees that no one under the age of 12 is permitted.

Each group should conduct a safety meeting immediately preceding the start of the work day to inform each participant of personal, group and motorist safety. If a participant does not attend this meeting he/she should not be permitted to participate in the activity that day.

When possible, the group should carpool to the site to minimize the number of vehicles parked on the shoulder.

When parking vehicles on the road shoulder, please pull off as far as possible. Group should not park vehicle(s) on bridges, curves, intersections, overpasses or other areas that are constrained.

Group should pick up litter during daylight hours only, between one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset. Try to avoid picking up litter during inclement weather.

Litter pick up should not begin until the traffic warning signs have been placed at each end of the work area and the group leader has given the go ahead to start work. Signs should be placed at least 500 feet in front of work areas.

Warning signs should be moved before beginning on a new section of roadway.

The group not work in construction areas.

Group should not approach any animals, including dogs, while working. If appropriate, please contact Animal Control at (503) 623-9251.

Group should not bring along any pets or small children.

Group should work/walk on only one side of the road at a time. Always pay attention to traffic and face it at all times.

Group should walk on the shoulder of the road and not the road itself while picking up litter and when walking to and from vehicles. Never cross at a curve or on a hill where sight distance is short.

Groups should not pick up litter in a manner that interferes with traffic, which includes picking up litter in the driving lanes.

Be respectful of private property adjacent to the road the group is working on. Stay within the right-of-way unless permission has been given by the property owner to enter their property.

Be aware of your surroundings. Watch for vehicles, animals, bee hives, poison oak and other noxious weeds.

Orange safety vests should be worn at all times. Pants, long sleeve shirts, solid shoes or boots and leather or rubber gloves are highly recommended. It is also recommended to wear bright color clothing that will make you more visible to traffic.

Any device which restricts a participant's ability to hear traffic noises or diverts their attention from traffic is should not be permitted in the work area.

Be careful in picking up glass and metallic objects. Do not try to compress such objects with your hands or feet.

Litter bags should be carried in front of or at a person's side. Swinging the bag onto your back should be avoided as protruding objects could cause injury.

Full litter bags should be placed along the side of the road for pickup (if on designated cleanup days), off the shoulder and not in the bike path (if present). Bags should be placed in an area where a waste disposal truck driver can pull over and pick up bags safely, not on hills, curves or blind spots. If possible, place all bags in one pile at one location.

Do not overfill bags. Polk County will supply as many bags as you need. Bags should be securely closed and hold no more than 15-25 pounds.

Do not pick up diapers, condoms, needles, broken glass, dead animals, solvent, fertilizer containers, herbicides, drug lab waste or any other hazardous waste.

For hazardous waste identified, a red biohazard marker flag shall be placed upright in the ground at the edge of the road shoulder and noted on the green slips. The flag should be readily visible from the traveled road. Please contact Public Works at (503) 623-9287 about any hazardous material found.

For large, bulky or heavy items, place them on the side of the road outside of the emergency parking strip where they are visible (if they can be moved).

We encourage groups to recycle any recyclable items and those that can be redeemed for deposit.

Use of alcoholic beverages or any other controlled substance is prohibited.

Be responsible, stay alert and use common sense at all times. Watch out for yourself, your fellow volunteers and the traveling public.