

Team Tipp County Clean Up 2024

11th – 13th October 2024

Best Practice Guidelines for Health & Safety

The health and safety of all those who participate in clean-ups is of primary importance to Tipperary County Council. Participants should familiarise themselves with the contents of this guidance document which aims to assist groups undertaking clean ups in relation to potential health and safety issues.

You must register online with Tipperary County Council and include details of the area you wish to clean up, prior to undertaking any clean-ups.

1. Best Practise Guidelines for Groups

Please follow these Best Practice Health and Safety Guidelines. Note where a group has a H&S policy in place, this should be followed at all times.

It is suggested that the following health and safety measures should be adhered to when organising an event:

- Talk to your volunteer group and update them on the safety guidelines outlined in this document before you start your litter pick.
- Your Group Contact (person who registered for the clean-up) must make the others in their group aware of the H&S Guidelines and Best Practice – see Appendix A.
- Once the group has selected an area to carry out a clean-up, a risk assessment should be carried out before the event to examine the possible risks that could cause harm to the volunteers.
- You should look out for the following types of hazards: Unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, other hazardous substances, broken glass, condoms, syringes, etc.
- Do not clean up near deep or fast flowing water, dangerous currents or tides, steep, slippery or unstable banks, sharp rocks, mud holes, derelict buildings, electric fences etc.
- For each hazard identified, you can decide what precautions are needed.
- If you do find any items you consider dangerous (including/syringes or sharps) make a note of their location and email customerservices@tipperarycoco.ie or call 0818 065000.
- No volunteer should put themselves or any other person at risk during the clean-up event. If you think a littered area is too dangerous for you or your group of volunteers then it is. Take note of the exact location of the area and email customerservices@tipperarycoco.ie or call 0818 065000.
- Always work in pairs whilst participating in clean-ups.
- Ensure there is a minimum number of 2 charged mobile phones available per group.
- Children participating in the clean-up are the responsibility of their parents or guardians or a 'responsible adult' nominated by parent/guardian. No more than FIVE

children to any one nominated responsible adult are advisable. A minimum of 2 responsible adults should be present AT ALL TIMES with any group of children.

- Do not climb and do not use ladders.
- Hands should be washed thoroughly after the event. Do not eat or drink without washing hands thoroughly.
- Use the safety equipment provided. Wear the gloves and high viz vests. Use the warning signage.
- Weil's disease is a bacterial disease which is spread mainly by the urine of infected animals, especially rats. To prevent the spread of the disease volunteers should wear strong waterproof boots and gloves.
- Any cuts or grazes should be carefully covered up before the clean-up event with waterproof plasters.
- All Groups should bring a first aid kit to all clean-ups.

2. Water

- Do not plan a clean-up on a river, near deep mud, steep, slippery or crumbling banks, or polluted water.

3. Roads

Working near Roads and Lay-bys

- Motorways and all access slip roads to motorways are out of bounds for litter clean-ups.
- Do not clean or go on a roundabout.
- Restrict groups to work on footpaths and verges with a 60 KM per hour speed limit or below.
- No one should work on a carriage way – (area where cars travel).
- Children under 16 should not pick up litter by the roadside.
- Volunteers should wear hi-visibility clothing and warning signage should be placed at either end of the stretch of road while work is in progress.
- Volunteers should obey normal rules of the road for pedestrians and work in the direction of traffic.
- On the Day appoint an event coordinator should: –
 - Brief on emergency procedures
 - Organise volunteers into teams
 - Distribute and collect equipment
- Collected litter should be brought to any of the Council's 5 recycling centres.
- All relevant/appropriate rules of the road must be followed at all times.

4. Protect Local Biodiversity

- Clean-up events should not adversely affect local biodiversity (flora and fauna). Please consider local wildlife.
- Keep gates closed and avoid cleaning up natural materials such as logs, stones and weeds. They may look untidy but they are often home to animals and birds.

5. Weather warnings Yellow Orange and Red

- In the event of a Yellow weather warning, the clean-up event will only proceed with the approval of the Tipperary County Council Severe Weather team.
- In the event of an Orange or Red Weather warning all volunteer activities will be postponed.

6. When the clean-up is complete

- Please return litter pickers and any excess supplies to your group leader.
- Ensure you remove your gloves and wash your hands thoroughly in hot water before eating or drinking.

7. Actions in the event of a major accident or emergency

In the unlikely event of a major accident or emergency during your clean up event:

- Phone the emergency services on 999 immediately
- Secure/make safe the scene
- Administer first aid if necessary

8. Actions in event of a medical emergency

All volunteer participants are advised to be vigilant.

- The person who comes upon, or is made aware of a medical emergency is to IMMEDIATELY notify the Gardai and emergency services.
- The event Co-ordinator/ Controller will be responsible for documenting and taking photographs as required.

Appendix A - Pre-Event and Event Safety Checklist for Group Contact

Please advise all participants in your group of the following points:

- They should not put themselves or any other person at risk during Clean-up event.
- If they think a littered area is too dangerous for them, it is, and they should not clean in that area.
- To use the safety equipment provided – gloves, high vis jackets etc.
- Not to work alone. Always work in a group of minimum 2 volunteers.
- That there is a minimum number of 2 charged mobile phones available per group.
- Children involved in all clean-up events are the responsibility of their parents or guardians or a 'responsible adult' nominated by parent/guardian.
- A minimum of 2 'responsible adults' should always be present with any group of children (max 10 per group).
- Not to climb and not use ladders.
- To wash hands before and after handling litter.
- To use the warning signage whilst carrying out clean ups.
- Cuts or grazes should be carefully covered up before the clean-up event with waterproof plasters.
- The location of the first aid kit for their group.
- Not to plan their clean-up near deep mud, steep, slippery or crumbling banks, or polluted water.
- That motorways and all access slip roads to motorways are out of bounds.
- Not to go on roundabouts.
- To work on footpaths and verges with a 60 KM per hour speed limit or below.
- That children under 16 should not pick up litter by the roadside.
- To wear hi-visibility clothing and place warning signs at either end of the stretch of road while work is in progress.
- That all relevant/appropriate rules of the road must be followed at all times and to work against the direction of oncoming traffic.
- To keep gates closed and avoid cleaning up natural materials such as logs, stones and weeds.
- Once the clean-up is completed, gloves should be removed and hands should be washed thoroughly in hot water before eating or drinking.
- To return any excess litter pickers or supplies to their group contact.
- What to do in the event of an emergency. Stay calm, stay focused, stay on the line and clearly state the emergency service you require. You may be required to give details such as your name, location and telephone number.
- Call 999 or 112 in a medical emergency when someone is: seriously ill, injured or at risk of dying.

I have advised the volunteers in _____ group of the above Health & Safety points.

Signature _____ Date _____