

# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHILE VOLUNTEERING

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## General Safety Gear

- Safety Vest
- Gloves
- Litter Grabber
- Sanitizer/Masks (upon request)

### *Strongly recommended:*

- Long pants and long sleeve shirts
- Boots or sturdy shoes

## General Volunteer Safety Guidelines

<b>Be street safe</b>	Do not go into the roadway, median, or roundabout to remove litter. Stay off bridges and rocky, steep, unstable slopes, guardrails, or concrete walls. Avoid construction and utility work sites. Stay on public property at all times.
<b>Use proper tools</b>	Use litter grabber as much as possible rather than using your hands; dangerous litter may not be visible; watch for nails, syringes, broken glass, or other sharp objects
<b>Pay attention</b>	Be prepared for any unexpected behavior from motorists; Do not wear headphones; Do not use alcohol or mind-altering substances prior to, or while participating in clean-up events; Only work during daylight hours; Watch children carefully
<b>Take breaks</b>	Make sure you and your crew are drinking water and taking breaks frequently to avoid overexertion and heat related problems

## Emergency Procedures

- Know the location of the nearest emergency facility and how to quickly summon the police or medics
- Report all accidents or injuries to the project coordinator at the Lewis County Historical Museum immediately
- If you encounter a dangerous situation such as harassment from others, leave the area and dial 9-1-1 for assistance.

## Stay Safe!

- Wear gloves. Each litter kit provided by AAS will contain a pair of knit and plastic gloves. Thoroughly wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before you put your gloves on. Avoid touching your face.

# How to Handle Unsafe & Dangerous Litter

Volunteers **MUST NOT** handle dangerous or unsafe litter items.

When cleaning up in public spaces, please avoid homeless camps. Leave camps and personal property items in place. Be mindful of personal safety and do not clean within 20 feet of tents and encampments.

View list of unsafe litter items below and the corresponding action to take if discovered:

## ITEM FOUND



## ACTION TAKEN

litter that is not fully visible	Use a tool such as a trash-grabber or hand-rake to “identify” an item before retrieving it. If an item is unidentifiable and possibly caustic or volatile, report the item to the event coordinator.
dead animals	If you find a dead animal, please report it to the event coordinator.
condoms, human waste, broken glass, heavy objects	All other dangerous and unsafe litter should be left and reported to the event coordinator.
hazardous products, propane tanks, gas canisters, car batteries, petroleum products, chemicals, paints and solvents, unidentified containers, pharmaceuticals	Under no circumstances should you pick up hazardous material. Your safety is paramount, if an item is suspicious, make note of it and contact the event coordinator.
firearms and other weapons	If found contact the police immediately at 9-1-1.
needles, syringes, razorblades	Do not touch and report location of the item to the event coordinator.