

Risk Assessment for An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign

This form should be understood and completed by the lead volunteer before the start of any litter pick.

Litter picks are generally very safe, and it is unlikely that you will encounter any serious hazards or incidents – you will see that the points below are just common sense and are worth considering to ensure your event runs as smoothly and safely as possible.

As the organizer of the litter pick you should ensure that all volunteers know the risks and understand the control measures before clearing any litter. It is sensible to address all volunteers and introduce yourself as the lead volunteer/organizer, so they know who to go to with questions/to report an incident. You should also check that all volunteers know what equipment they must use and what area they may clean up. Also advise that a copy of the risk assessment is available on request.

An example of risk assessment can be aligned to crossing the road, which is a potentially dangerous activity made safe by "control measures" e.g. traffic lights, looking left and right (training) etc. We would often use that example to show how, what is in essence a very hazardous activity that is carried out safely (usually!).

Before starting your clean up ensure all volunteers:

- Have the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – e.g. Thick gloves, Nitrile disposable gloves Hi-Viz vest, sensible footwear, weather appropriate clothing etc.
- Have the correct equipment – e.g. Litter grabbers, plastic bags, dog waste bags, brush, shovel etc. and know how to use the equipment.
- Consider all the risks and hazards in the work area, e.g. hazardous waste, broken glass, dog waste, vomit, needles, condoms and roads/cycle ways, thorny bushes, low branches, uneven ground, hidden banking etc.
- Know the work area and how to report incidents or hazardous or unidentified waste, where to get first aid, meet on completion, deposit bags of waste and mark bags containing sharp material e.g. broken glass.

On Completion of the Litter Pick Ensure:

- Everyone washes their hands thoroughly as soon as possible after the litter pick and before taking any food or drink.
- Any wounds are redressed after cleaning and disinfecting if there has been any contact with water.
- Volunteers carry out a personal inspection for cuts etc.
- Report any hazardous items to the organizer
- All volunteers have reported bac to the meeting point, and all equipment is collected and signed in and Out if nessessary.
- All rubbish for collection has been left in the arranged pick up site.
- Any bags containing sharp material, e.g. broken glass, are clearly identified.

Likelihood ↑	Very likely	Acceptable risk Medium 2	Unacceptable risk High 3	Unacceptable risk Extreme 5
	Likely	Acceptable risk Low 1	Acceptable risk Medium 2	Unacceptable risk High 3
	Unlikely	Acceptable risk Low 1	Acceptable risk Low 1	Acceptable risk Medium 2
	What is the chance it will happen?	Minor	Moderate	Major
		Impact How serious is the risk? →		

IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

Seek medical attention where appropriate.

Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor.

If exposed to pesticides, insecticides or other chemicals – record any label details.

If unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation.

Risk Assessment for An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign

Location:		Duration :		Assessment by:	
Description:	Litter Picking	Works By:	Volunteers	RISK No & Date:	

Activity/Hazard	Potential risks from these activities	Likely-hood 1-3	Sever-ity 1-3	Risk Rating L x S	Controls Measures Required	By whom	Risk Rating after controls in place
Access & Egress Ground conditions	Slips, Trips & Falls Sprains, muscle damage & broken bones.	1	2	2	Avoid dangerous areas and choose the safest possible route over difficult ground. Instruct volunteers to wear suitable footwear. Report to main supervisor of An Taisce's if there is any blockages on the main access/egress routes to the litter pick. Ensure all litter and waste is stored in a safe manner and bags are not over filled.	All Volunteers	1
Water, marshes, bogs	Hypothermia, drowning.	1	3	3	Avoid banks, especially if they appear unstable. Always work in pairs if close to water. Never allow children to work in these areas. If adults are work close to water, they must wear a PFD (personal floatation device)	All Volunteers	1
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & Infections	1	2	2	Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter. Seek medical attention where appropriate	All Volunteers	1
Needles	Cuts & infections	1	3	3	Leave alone & report to council for removal. Seek medical attention where appropriate	All Volunteers	1
Heavy/awkward to handle rubbish	Pulled muscles & strain	1	2	2	Extreme care to be taken, use good lifting practices and share the load with an appropriate number of people. If too heavy to handle leave the object in place and report it to the organizer to arrange removal by the council.	All Volunteers	1
Batteries, asbestos & miscellaneous chemicals	Potentially dangerous depending on condition	1	2	2	Do not approach or remove any potentially hazardous waste. Report to the council for disposal.	All Volunteers	1

