

Safety Guidelines For Litter Removal From State Maintained Highways

- Do** park vehicles at least five feet beyond the shoulder of the highway.
- Do** (you must) wear an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class 2 vest at all times.
- Do** make sure "Workers Ahead" signs are placed at each end of the work area.
- Do** wear light or brightly colored, protective clothing as well as gloves and hard-soled, substantial, high-top leather shoes or boots with good ankle support.
- Do** wear sunscreen.
- Do** wear a long-sleeved top and long pants. A hat is optional.
- Do** face oncoming traffic while on foot and look up often to monitor approaching vehicles.
- Do** stay alert for snakes, bees, fire ants, poison ivy/oak, and other noxious insects and weeds.
- Do** be prepared to move out of the way quickly in an emergency.
- Do** watch your footing. Stay off loose stones and steep slopes.
- Do** place filled and tied trash bags under your Adopt-A-Highway sign where MDOT personnel can easily retrieve them.
- Do** provide proper adult supervision for children at all times. No person under the age of 15 is allowed to assist unsupervised in litter removal from highway rights of way; however, persons between the ages of 12 and 15 may participate if there is one adult present for every eight participants in this age category.
- Do** fill out your Adopt-A-Highway Report Card and mail it back after each quarterly clean up.

- Don't** exit from a motor vehicle into oncoming traffic.
- Don't** volunteer to remove litter if you are not in good health or have poor sight and/or hearing.
- Don't** walk out on the highway or cross the median while picking up litter. Stay on the grass.
- Don't** attempt to pick up litter from any paved areas.
- Don't** attempt to remove known or suspected toxic/hazardous substances or materials or dead animals.
- Don't** pick up discarded syringes or hypodermic needles.
- Don't** attempt to overfill, compact or stuff trash bags. Injuries from broken or jagged objects may result. Fill bags with what goes in easily, then start a new bag.
- Don't** over-exert yourself. Drink plenty of water, especially on warm, humid days.
- Don't** wear radio or tape headsets which could interfere with hearing oncoming traffic or other potential hazards.
- Don't** horseplay or do anything that will distract passing vehicles or other volunteers.
- Don't** participate in litter pick up while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Don't** pick up litter in foul weather.

REMEMBER: Always be alert and safety conscious when working around a highway. The success of this program depends on the safety of its participants.