

World Cleanup Day

safety and crisis guidelines



Cleanup work should be carried out as safely as possible! Being aware of various safety points not only reduces the risk of accidents or illness, but also enables groups to work more effectively, thus increasing everybody's enjoyment and satisfaction.

Please keep in mind that all **participants take part of their own free will** and neither country nor local team leaders can be held responsible for any unexpected situations.

All critical incidents that happen during World Cleanup Day need to be solved locally.

Be prepared

Know your area that you are going to clean up and inform all your team members about it.

- Exact location of cleanup area (address or coordinates). It is also important in case you may need to call for help.
- Specific characters and landscape or nature risks/hazards – i.e. coastal area, traffic, altitude/elevation/depth, bodies of water, dangerous manmade objects (power grid, pipelines, possible land mines, etc).
- If there is a possibility of meeting dangerous animals, learn how to avoid them.
- Are there any criminal activities that are known of?

First aid and personal safety

- Make sure there is at least one person in the group who can provide first aid. For safety reasons all group members should have basic personal protective equipment: gloves, proper clothes and shoes, drinking water, first aid kit. Minimum daily intake of water per person is 1.5 litres / 0.4 gallons.
A proper first aid kit should include at least:
- Personal medications
- Wound care (bandages, roll gauze, leukotapes)
- Tools (scissors; precision tweezers; hand sanitizer; medical gloves).

Know your group

Keep a record of many members you have, what their names and mobile phone numbers are. It is good way to keep contact with them.

Weather conditions

Stay up to date with the local weather forecast and prepare for the situation. If the weather forecast predicts extreme conditions (such as storms, very heavy rain), ask for advice from local experts on how to continue with the cleanup.

Be in touch!

Make sure there is at least one fully-charged mobile phone per group or know where the closest calling option is. Know and save all important contact and emergency numbers!

Emergency numbers in your country/area – police, fire, ambulance.

World Cleanup Day country's team leader/ coordinator/crisis hotline.

Group members' contact numbers, if possible.

Safety during cleanup

Work safety

Think 'Safety First' while cleaning up the site and notify your volunteers of how to safeguard yourself and others.

- If it is not safe, do not do it. If you are not sure, do not do it.
- Work in pairs or groups, not only for safety but also for assistance. If anyone is in difficulty, everyone has to act responsibly and inform others immediately.
- Ensure that people keep a safe distance between each other whilst working.
- Be careful when moving around or lifting weights and protect your back by bending at the knees and keeping your back straight when under strain.
- Parents are responsible for their children.



Personal protective equipment

To ensure protection and safety during the cleanup, make sure all volunteers have proper personal protective equipment.

- Appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes; be ready for a sudden change in the weather.
- Wear gloves all the time while collecting trash.
- Hats and sunglasses, sunscreen and clean water. Drinking water is essential whilst working.

Pay attention and ensure that volunteers drink water regularly. Also ensure that they rest if they are tired.

Keep safety and responsibility in mind at all times

- Do not throw bags since you could hurt your arm, someone else or a plant or animal.
- Do not touch or pick up any unknown containers, explosive materials or dangerous chemicals. Such locations need to be flagged and reported to the supervisor or responsible person.
- Waste which could potentially be hazardous must be collected separately, i.e. medical waste, oil, tar balls, oiled materials, etc. Please follow instructions for hazardous waste.
- Do not enter private land, hazardous areas or unstable ground. Where signs or common sense indicate such an area, use caution and stay away.
- The daily safety rules are valid at all times (i.e. road safety, water safety, fire safety etc.).
- Do not harm the environment during the cleanup.

In case of incident or crisis

Take seriously all incidents that threaten people's health and safety or a clean environment.

What to do if an unexpected situation happens:

1. **Stop your clean-up work!**
2. **Stay calm and ensure your own safety!**
3. **CALL to emergency!**
4. **Follow the instructions!**
5. **Make sure anyone else is safe!**

Call the emergency services if someone is injured. The most important thing is people's health and their life!

- If someone's health or life is in danger, call local or national emergency/police.
- Tell them clearly what was happened, where and with whom.
- Answer the questions and follow the instructions and advice.

Give first aid if needed and if you are qualified to do so!

- Make sure that you and the injured person are not in danger.
- Give the basic first aid. Injuries that need rapid first aid are: unconsciousness, collapse from cardiac arrest, bleeding, burns, fractures, poisoning.
- Ask other people to help you.
- Protect yourself – avoid unprotected contact with the blood of an injured person.
- If your skills are insufficient, ask for assistance from the emergency services and do your best to help.
- Monitor the injured person's conditions until the emergency services arrive.