

Tamar Litter Challenge 2022 – Risk Assessment

Date: October 2022

Details of operation or work activity: Risk Assessment for litter picking

Typical groups at risk: Volunteers; workers; members of the public

This risk assessment is to make sure the health, safety and welfare of any participants has been considered and that all reasonable precautions and controls are in place prior to any clean up activity taking place. This generic style risk assessment is not definitively listing all potential hazards but is intended as a guide to enable activity organisers and/ or individuals to manage risks when litter picking.

Hazard	Risk	Control Risk avoidance or minimise
<i>What are the hazards?</i>	<i>What is the risk?</i>	<i>Action: Risk control measures</i>
COVID-19	Infection/illness, spreading the disease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If travelling in vehicles together, it is recommended face masks are worn, and people stay on same vehicle side / spaced, open windows to provide ventilation. 2. Antiseptic hand gel to be available on site. 3. Keep hand gel/handwashing kit in car and wash hands on arrival and when leaving site. 4. Maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible. 5. Where possible use own tools / equipment and do not share with others. Wipe clean after use.
Slips trips and falls	Injury	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure correct footwear and appropriate clothing. 2. Be aware of surroundings and take care if ground under foot is uneven.

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Accessing streams /rivers	Drowning. Water borne diseases.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out dynamic risk assessment of site prior to litter picking. If unsafe, find new site or do not carry out activity. 2. Do not enter the water. Litter pick from the bank using a litter picking tool. 3. Work in pairs at all times around riverbanks. 4. Check phone coverage and make sure everyone has access to a phone. 5. Cover cuts and keep clean. Wash hands after session and before eating. Use hand sanitizer.
Beaches	Drowning, being trapped by incoming tides, large waves surging onto beach, rip currents unstable cliffs, falling debris, coastal conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check tide times and do not to go into areas that can be cut-off by tides. 2. Stay away from the water's edge, extra caution should be taken when waves are large. 3. Stay away from landslides, caves or overhanging/unstable looking cliffs. 4. Identify areas of unstable cliffs & areas that are likely to be cut-off by tides. 5. Check for advice and warnings on coastal access for your location provided by the Met Office/Environment Agency/HM Coastguard.
Inclement weather	Sunburn, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, exposure, flood.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Aid kit available. 2. Avoid extreme weather events. Check weather forecast and plan appropriately 3. Ensure appropriate clothing for the weather conditions on the day must be worn by all volunteers, in higher temperatures dress to stay cool. 4. Sunscreen and sunhats should be worn as necessary. 5. In higher temperatures, drink plenty of water and seek shade where possible. 6. Heed weather and travel warnings provided by the Met Office.
Irritants, toxic plants (e.g. Giant Hogweed, Hemlock Water Dropwort)	Poisoning, skin irritations or allergic reactions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beware of toxic plants and possible adverse reactions. 2. Ensure you are aware of toxic plants and what they look like, in particular Giant Hogweed and Hemlock Water Dropwort (toolbox talk). 3. Wash hands / use hand gel thoroughly after touching plants, particularly before eating.

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		4. Seek medical attention for unusual or suspicious symptoms after contact with vegetation or irritants.
Roadways and traffic	Injury	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not work in the roadway unless necessary. – Assess road risk on the day and stay away from blind spots, fast sections and narrow sections - any concern, do not work there. 2. Park off road if possible – but at least in a safe location in accordance with traffic and bylaw regulations 3. Wear a hi viz tabard 4. Work in pairs / groups and look out for each other
Insect Bites	Ticks, horse flies, wasps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep skin covered, and have antiseptic cream available. 2. Check for ticks when leaving site – be aware of Lyme Disease and monitoring protocols should you be bitten.
Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis)	Infection from water/rat urine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid touching face with wet/dirty hands. 2. Wash hands prior to eating and on completion of operation. 3. Use proprietary hand sanitiser when in the field. 4. Cover all cuts, abrasions and other breaks in the skin with waterproof dressings and/or gloves.
Manual Handling	Musculo skeletal injuries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness of good practice lifting and carrying techniques 2. Use litter bag carriers 3. Do not overfill litter bags – ideally leave bags for car-pick up at regular intervals
People / passers-by	Physical or verbal assault.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be aware of aggressive and difficult people. 2. Withdraw rather than face conflict. 3. Do not work out of sight of others in the group. 4. Mobile phone available. 5. Keep together and stay off private property. 6. Children or any vulnerable people should never be left to work alone. Ensure that they stay with their parents/guardians/carers.

Hazard	Risk	Control Risk avoidance or minimise
Broken glass, sharp/rusty edges	Cuts & infections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong gloves to be worn at all times for litter picking. 2. Do not pick up broken glass, sharp/rusty edges with your hands. Use litter grabbers to pick up sharp litter, if safe to do so. Place sharp litter / broken glass in the designated box on site and do not place in litter bags. 3. Inform pickers not to put hands where they cannot see. 4. All participants should have up to date tetanus vaccinations. 5. Seek medical attention where appropriate. First aid kit available.
Contamination from sharps / needles	Being pierced / potential infections,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All staff and volunteers will wear durable gloves and will use litter pickers only. Extra care will be taken. 2. Inform pickers not to put hands where they cannot see 3. When sharps identified, <u>Do not</u> touch & report to event organiser to mark the location of needles on sketch/map. Report to council for removal (webpage information below table). 4. Thoroughly wash any cuts or abrasions as soon as possible, however minor. 5. Seek immediate medical attention if contact with needle occurs.
Contamination from waste plastic products	Illness – (body fluids from humans, rodents etc)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Litter picking tools will be used for picking up waste materials. 2. Thick garden type gloves will be worn to further reduce the risk. 3. All materials will be placed straight into heavy duty rubbish bags when logged. Bags will be tied up and disposed of on completion 4. Wash hands / use antiseptic hand gel on arrival and when leaving site.
Contamination from wildlife / animal related sources.	Illness or disease.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not touch or collect animal faeces / dead animals etc.