

Litter Picking Risk Assessment

Prior to work commencement

1. Must have PPE – safety footwear, gloves, outdoor clothing etc.
2. Must have appropriate tools and equipment in good condition, e.g. litter grab, plastic bags, container for needles etc., labels and string, brush and shovel.
3. Consider risks and hazards in work area, e.g. broken glass, vomit, condoms, thorny shrubs etc. Refer any concerns to supervisor.
4. Ensure your familiarity with method statement for safe working

Hazards

1. Handling of sharp items of litter, e.g. broken glass, cans etc.
2. Handling faeces, vomit, condoms etc. with biohazard risks.
3. Contact with thorns, spines etc., in shrubbery.
4. Encounters with wasps and other insects, rodents and associated food wastes.
5. Slips and trips from uneven and slippery surfaces and slopes.
6. Manual handling of litterbins sacks etc.
7. Exposure to weather conditions.

Harm

1. Minor cuts to severe lacerations and fractures.
2. Infections, stings and/or bites, eye injuries, hypothermia, heatstroke, sunburn, muscle strain.

Persons at risk

1. Staff.
2. Other persons in the vicinity of the work area, e.g. passers-by.

Control measures

1. Always, wear appropriate protective clothing and use PPE.
2. Take extra care on uneven ground and in shrubberies etc.
3. Always, adhere to procedure for condoms, hypodermic needles/syringes. Sharps bins for needles and other rigid containers for glass and sharp hazards should be obtained from lock up store.



4. Use good lifting techniques when emptying litterbins and moving sacks etc., i.e. manual handling (see separate Risk Assessment Manual Handling).
5. Always seek attention for all cuts etc., however minor, to minimise risks of infection.
6. If in doubt regarding safety on site. Refer to supervisor before action.
7. Staff to have appropriate immunisation, e.g. against Hepatitis.

On completion

1. Inspect area covered to see if any hazardous material still present. If so, remove or report to supervisor.
2. Transport rubbish bags etc., to appropriate disposal site. Take clinical waste or sharps waste appropriate waste disposal location.
3. Wash hands and arms thoroughly. Carry out personal inspection for cuts etc.
4. Report completion to supervisor.

