Remember the following “DON’Ts” at all cleanups:

**Individuals:**
- Do not pick up the following:
  - Abandoned barrels
  - Chemical containers
  - Hypodermic needles
  - Containers with no labels
  - Broken automotive batteries
  - Bulging or dented containers
  - Containers leaking unknown substances
  - Weapons
  - Pesticide or herbicide containers
  - Narcotics
  - Paint cans
  - Dead animals
  - Sharp objects
  - Gas cans, oil, or antifreeze
  - Toxic or hazardous items
- Do not overstuff bags.
- Do not attempt to move large objects such as rusted car shells, old household appliances, or swing sets.
- Do not bring pets to events, as they may distract participants, or even detract from the cleanup.
- Do not overdo it physically.

**Group Leader:**
- Do not schedule cleanups during peak pedestrian or traffic hours.
- Do not conduct cleanups during inclement weather.
- Do not conduct cleanups near or around construction sites or heavy traffic areas.

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**Litter Cleanup Safety**

how to keep volunteers safe and healthy during litter cleanups

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Cleanups are opportunities for volunteers to help their communities. Due to risks (meth labs/hazardous waste/young volunteers, etc.), precautions must be taken so that all cleanup participants are never placed in harm's way. The following information will keep your cleanups safe and fun for all involved.

More and more cleanup crews are discovering meth lab materials during cleanup events. Make sure your participants are aware of the following warning signs that may be present at cleanup sites.

- cold/allergy medicine packaging
- bottles or containers connected with rubber hosing or duct tape
- empty containers from: antifreeze, ether, starter fluid, freon, lye, drain openers, paint thinner, acetone, or rubbing alcohol
- coffee filters, or sheets, with white/pasty/powdery or red substance
- coolers, thermos bottles, or other cold storage containers
- propane tanks
- compressed gas cylinders or camp stove fuel containers

Cooking meth creates toxic fumes and dust that permeate the surroundings. Most (85%) of the material will become toxic waste, and likely dumped. Accidental exposure to meth by-products, chemicals, and equipment can cause severe health effects and injury, including burns, collapsed lungs, and nerve damage. Avoid handling or smelling any of the items as the fumes are toxic. If you discover what you believe to be a meth lab, report the site immediately to your local fire or police department.

Remember the following “DOs” at all cleanups:

**Individuals:**
- Wear gloves and thick soled, closed-toe shoes.
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Wear safety vests or bright colors for roadside cleanups.
- Wear sunscreen and bug repellent.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the potential hazards associated with them.
- Use the buddy system; work in teams of two or three to maximize safety.
- Keep pre-moistened towelettes on hand.
- Wash hands with antibacterial soap after cleanup.
- Bag litter to meet local regulations.
- Take an occasional break.
- Supply flotation devices or life vests if appropriate for waterway cleanups.
- Take before, during, and after pictures to document your work.

**Group Leader:**
- Be aware of all known allergies of volunteers before participation.
- Know emergency procedures, such as the location of the nearest emergency facility and how to quickly summon the police or an ambulance.
- Have a first aid kit and cellular phone on hand.
- If possible, have someone trained in CPR and/or first-aid on hand.
- Provide adequate adult supervision if working with youth groups.
- Reconvene every hour to make sure that all participants are accounted for, safe, and enjoying the cleanup.