

# My clean beach



## Site Inspection

The cleanup organizer should be familiar with the site proposed. He or she should identify the logistical constraints and potential hazards to ensure the safety of volunteers and to take measures to minimize their impacts.



### Logistical constraints

Number of parking spaces: \_\_\_\_\_

Road access: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of debris:  little  moderate  large

(to estimate the number of bags needed)

Owner : \_\_\_\_\_

Permission from the owner :  yes  no

Safe launching site :  yes  no

Navigation level of difficulty:  easy  intermediate  expert



### Risk factors

1. Are there holes or obstacles (e.g., branches, rocks or walls) that might cause a fall?	Yes	No
2. Are there broken branches that might fall on volunteers?	Yes	No
3. Are there nearby bees and wasps?	Yes	No
4. Is the vegetation dense?	Yes	No
5. Are there a lot of pollenbearing plants? Will your cleanup take place during the hay fever season?	Yes	No
6. Are there itchy plants (e.g., poison ivy, nettles or poison sumac)?	Yes	No
7. Is there fastmoving water nearby?	Yes	No
8. Is the site near a highspeed road?	Yes	No
9. Is there a high risk of finding syringes?	Yes	No
10. Is there a high risk of finding broken glass?	Yes	No
11. Could volunteers be exposed to used water?	Yes	No
12. Will volunteers be constantly exposed to wind and cold?	Yes	No
13. Will volunteers be constantly exposed to sun?	Yes	No
14. Is the site in a remote area (e.g., islands) and difficult for an emergency vehicle to reach?	Yes	No
15. Will there be children among the volunteers?	Yes	No



If you have answered "Yes" to any of these questions, please note the corresponding recommendations.

#### 1. Risk of falls due to obstacles

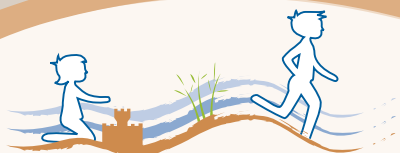
- Warn your volunteers at the beginning of the cleanup.
- Make sure your group doesn't go too close to the water.
- Have a reaching pole and safety buoy in case a volunteer falls into the water.

#### 2. Broken branches that may fall

- Don't take volunteers to the location since a falling branch could easily injure someone.

#### 3. Wasps and bees

- Warn your volunteers of the hazard during recruitment.
- Mention that people allergic to stings must not participate in the cleanup.



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#### 4. Dense vegetation

- Is it a fragile habitat that could be degraded by trampling (e.g., wet meadows and marshes)? If so, choose another site or perform the cleanup from small boats.
- Tell your volunteers to wear long pants and sleeves to avoid scratches.

#### 5. Pollenbearing plants and hay fever

- Tell your volunteers to bring antiallergic drugs if they need them.
- Choose a date outside of when pollen peaks.

#### 6. Itchy plants

- Bring Help Card 2 to explain to volunteers how to recognize such plants.
- If itchy plants are concentrated in one spot, clearly indicate where (e.g., with tape).
- Encourage your volunteers to wear long sleeves to minimize direct skin contact with plants.

#### 7. Fastmoving water

- Warn your volunteers at the beginning of the cleanup.
- Make sure your group acts with caution.
- Have a reaching pole and safety buoy in case someone falls into the water.
- Don't use boats.
- Keep a close watch on children.

#### 8. Highspeed road

- Keep a close watch on children.
- Encourage your volunteers to wear flashy colours (e.g., and orange safety vest).

#### 9. Syringes

- Don't accept children as volunteers.
- To dispose of syringes safely, bring several glass containers with lids.
- Don't dispose of syringes in trash cans. Instead, bring them back to a pharmacy.
- Always wear sturdy gloves to handle syringes.
- Advise your volunteers to act with caution.
- Provide all volunteers with coloured ribbon to clearly mark

where a syringe is found if they don't feel comfortable handling it. You can dispose of it yourself or, if you don't feel comfortable, call the municipality.

#### 10. Broken glass

- Keep an eye on children.
- Bring rigid "sharps" containers (at least one per team) to dispose of glass safely.

#### 11. Used water

- Don't use a boat on poorquality water.
- Give your volunteers latex gloves to prevent contact with sewage. Personal hygiene and medical debris, including syringes, may be more frequent. See recommendation 9.

#### 12. Constant exposure to wind and cold

- Tell your volunteers to bring appropriate clothing (windproof coat, warm sweater, boots, hat and scarf).
- Try to provide a shelter (e.g., community building, cottage or house) near the site.

#### 13. Constant exposure to sun

- Tell your volunteers to bring appropriate clothing (hat, long-sleeved shirt).
- Urge your volunteers to bring water and sunscreen. Bring some yourself to give to volunteers who forget.
- Make sure that all volunteers take frequent breaks and drink enough water to avoid heat stroke or sunburn.
- Whenever possible, set up your base in the shade.

#### 14. Remote areas and difficult access

- Check whether emergency vehicles can reach your site easily. If they can't, have a plan to evacuate an injured volunteer.
- Have a shortwave radio or cell phone that you know will work at that location.

#### 15. Children

- All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- All children should wear a life jacket at all times.
- Don't take children where syringes are likely to be found.
- Explain the safety rules to them in simple terms.
- In general, children cleanups since they can quickly see the impact they make.

