**Risk assessment template**

This risk assessment acts as a guide to outline some of the common hazards, risks and control measures that might be encountered whilst undertaking a clean-up event. Due to changing weather and water conditions, ideally this risk assessment should be undertaken on the day of the event prior to it commencing.

Before undertaking a clean up make sure that you have permission of the landowner.

All participants should be briefed by the leader on the risk assessment before the start of the clean-up.

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| Date of event | Location | Event Leader |

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| **Hazard** | | **Risk** | **Suggested control measures** | **Additional measures** |
| **Environment conditions** | **Weather condition - Cold** | Hypothermia | Tell participants to wear appropriate clothing and bring extra layers  Review the conditions on the day and be aware of deteriorating conditions |  |
| **Weather condition – Hot** | Dehydration, sunburn | Provide sun cream and ask participants to bring water |  |
| **Weather condition – Rain** | Slippery surface; slips trips and falls | Ask participants to wear waterproofs and appropriate footwear with good grip |  |
| **Slippery, uneven, or steep terrain** | Slips, trips and falls | Ask participants to wear appropriate footwear with good grip |  |
| **Tool handling and litter picking** | A sign in the dark  Description automatically generated**Use of tools: litter pickers** | Collision with other users: eye injury | Be aware of other volunteers around the area  Work slowly, minimising splashing  Keep the end of the tool away from eyes  When moving with the tool, keep it pointed at ground height.  Leave the tool in a visible, safe location. |  |
| Tools causing trip hazard | Leave the tool in a visible, safe location that will not cause a trip hazard |  |
| Balance – risk of falling reaching for hard to reach litter | Do not overreach for litter |  |
| **Heavy bags** |  | Participants are warned not to overfill sacks with rubbish.  .  Participants are informed to carry and move bags with good form |  |
| **Sharp objects or litter (broken glass, metal, cans)** | Cuts, punctures, wounds | Protective gloves must be worn whilst collecting litter  Instruct participants not to handle any visible needles, to note their location and report them to the local authority.  Inform participants to use litter pickers wherever possible to pick up litter  Inform participants not to kneel to avoid cuts or scrapes to the knees  Inform participants of the specific container for sharp items that can be safely removed. |  |
| **Contact with the water** | **Water borne diseases and pollution** | Becoming sick or unwell from contact with the water e.g. Weils disease | Protective gloves must be worn whilst collecting litter  Use litter pickers to handle litter wherever possible  Carry anti-bacterial hand sanitiser and ensure hands are washed before eating  Keep hands away from mouth and eyes whilst litter picking  Advise participants to cover any cuts and grazes before they start  Wash hands thoroughly after the clean up  Advise of symptoms to be aware of for Weils disease including but not limited to: fever, chills, headaches, nausea and vomiting.  Avoid outlets e.g. storm water overflows | A sign in the dark  Description automatically generated |
| **Entering the water** | Drowning | Where possible undertake the litter picking from the bank.  Advice a participant if they are entering the water, to check the depth for silt prior to entry.  Inform the participant to inform someone if they plan on entering the water and to only do so in the presence of another individual |  |
| **Other users** | **Conflict** | Other water users | Brief the participants to be aware of other water users that might be passing during the event.  Where possible, step aside to let them pass  If confrontation develops remain calm and summon help as quickly as possible |  |
| **Invasive species** | **Invasive species** | Unintentional transfer of invasive species between water bodies | Brief participants on the risk of spreading invasive non-native species to/and from other water courses.  Advice participants to follow [Check Clean Dry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/biosecurity-for-anglers.cfm) before and after the litter pick |  |
|  | **Other hazards not covered above** | | | |
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