Beach Clean – template risk assessment

**Location of Litter Pick:**

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| **Name of Leader running the event:** |  | **Date:** |  |
| **Name of person conducting the risk assessment (if different from leader):** |  | **Number of participants:** |  |

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| Hazard | Risk | Control measures | Person responsible for implementing measures |
| Harmful viruses, bacteria or parasites | The risk that participants could become ill through contact with a harmful virus (e.g. coronavirus-19), bacteria or parasites (e.g. Toxocariasis) | Participants advised to: -   * Wear gloves and/or use litter pickers and do not touch litter with bare hands * Not to touch their face (eyes/nose/mouth) * To wash hands immediately after gloves removed. * To remove gloves and wash hands before and after going to the toilet.   Group leader to provide suitable hand sanitiser at events and advise participants to use it.  Group leader to ensure litter pickers are washed/cleaned after every event.  Participants are advised to bring their own gloves, but any that are provided by the group leader must be washed/cleaned after every event.  In the case of an outbreak/ongoing risk of Coronavirus or similar epidemic, group leader(s) to put correct measures in place e.g. physical distancing and limited groups sizes in line with current government guidelines. | Group leader to inform of rules during safety briefing and check that all participants have appropriate equipment and understand the instructions.  Group leader and all participants  Group leader  Group leader  Group leader and all participants |
| Tide coming in | Participants drowning or being washed out to sea;  Group or individuals becoming stranded and needing rescue. | Check tide times; Know beach layout; Visit beach during high and low tides; Take a beach expert with you; Carry out a safety briefing to ensure that all participants are aware of safe areas (areas above high tide zone) and safe routes; High vis jackets or vests should be worn. All children/vulnerable adults to be accompanied by a supervising adult at all times;  Emergency action: Ring 999 and ask for the Coastguard. | Group leader (inform of rules during safety briefing)  Adults supervising any children and/or vulnerable adults |
| Mudflats | Participants could become trapped in tidal mudflats | Beach cleans should be organised for during an outgoing tide.  Safety briefing to include dangers associated with mudflats. Children and vulnerable adults to be supervised at all times. | Group Leaders should determine the risk within the area to be litter picked and advise participants of any areas to be avoided. |
| Boats | Injury from movement of resting boats | Safety briefing to include instructions to keep away from resting boats. Children and young adults to be supervised at all times.  A First Aid Kit to be available. | Group Leaders should determine the risk within the area to be litter picked and advise participants of any areas to be avoided. |
| Wild animal  (Jelly fish) | Risk of stings from jelly fish washed up on beach and caught in litter | Safety briefing to include instructions not to touch jellyfish. Gloves to be worn. Children and young adults to be supervised at all times.  A First Aid Kit to be available. | Group Leaders should determine the risk within the area to be litter picked and advise participants of any areas to be avoided. |
| Unexploded ordinance | Risk of injury from explosion | Safety briefing should cover actions to be taken in this eventuality. Under no circumstances is any form of explosive or munitions to be handled by any individual. | Emergency services to be called immediately upon discovery of any suspected munitions found. |
| Roads and traffic | Participants could be hit by traffic | High-vis jackets to be worn at all times;  Stay on footpaths; Stay away from fast roads (over 30mph) and areas with lots of traffic  Children and vulnerable individuals to be supervised. | Group leader (inform of rules during safety briefing and check that all participants are wearing high-vis vests/jackets) |
| Dangerous items in litter | Participants could be cut by broken glass or sharp metal objects; needles  Heavy objects or hazardous waste (e.g. chemical) may cause injury if moved | Gloves to be worn at all times.  Inform all participants to keep away from dangerous or potentially hazardous items and not to lift heavy objects. Notify local waste collection authority or landowner if needles or other dangerous objects are found.  A First Aid Kit to be available. | Group leader (inform of rules during safety briefing)  Appropriate School Adults supervising groups |
| Weather | Heat: sunstroke and dehydration  UV: Sunburn  Cold and rain: hypothermia | Weather forecast to be checked by group leader before the event. All participants should be advised to wear appropriate protective clothing, i.e. hats and sunscreen for summer heat and warm and waterproof coats for cold and rain. Water bottles should be carried. Warm drinks available on cold days. In the event of bad weather e.g. storms/weather warnings, event to be postponed. | Group leader to advise participants before the event and at the safety briefing.  Participants need to wear suitable clothing and carry refillable water bottles. |
| Slips and falls | People could slip on ground that is slippery or steep | Sensible shoes should be worn;  Route should be assessed for steep slopes or slippery surfaces. | Group leader and supervising adults; Participants should wear sensible shoes. |
| Rivers/lakes/ponds | Risk of drowning by entering or falling into water | Safety briefing at start of event to highlight any known bodies of water in area to be litter picked. Participants advised to wear sensible shoes and not to enter the water. Children and vulnerable adults to be supervised at all times. Mobile phone to be carried in case of emergency. | Group leader and supervising adults;  Participants should wear sensible shoes. |
| Wild animals | Animals trapped in litter could bite and cause injury. | Inform participants not to try to free trapped animals, as they could hurt them and/or themselves in the process. Contact RSPCA or local wildlife organisation for assistance. | Group leader (during safety briefing) |
| Participants getting lost | A participant becomes separated from the group and gets lost. | Work together in small groups ensuring an appropriate ratio of adults to children/young people. Appropriate instructions about direction and where to go given; agree a meeting time and place. | Group leader & supervising adults |
| Polluted water | Risk of illness due to exposure to polluted water (chemical or biological – poisonous algae or sewage) | Safety briefing to include instructions to keep away from polluted water. All participants to wear gloves and wash their hands after the event.  Children and young adults to be supervised at all times. | Group Leaders should determine the risk within the area to be litter picked and advise participants of any areas to be avoided. |