



County of Onondaga  
Adopt A Highway Safety Guidelines

REMEMBER YOU ARE WORKING IN A DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT – A PUBLIC HIGHWAY

**I. Crew Member – Qualifications**

Crew members should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Good common sense
- Good physical condition, including sight and hearing
- Mental Alertness
- A sense of responsibility for safety of the public and the crew
- Crew members must be at least 11 years old
- Crew members who are under the age of 16 must be supervised at a ratio of one adult for every four children. Supervisors must keep children in sight at ALL times.

**II. Safety Procedures**

- Designate a safety supervisor for your group
- Hold a training session on safety each time the crew goes out
- All work sites must be drug and alcohol free
- NO HORSEPLAY
- Knives, machetes, axes, etc. should not be carried by crew members
- Have a First Aid Kit at the work site.
- Know the route to the nearest hospital
- Avoid over exertion
- Drink plenty of water, especially on warm humid days
- Discontinue work in inclement weather, especially when visibility is reduced, roads are wet or icy, or lightening storms threaten

**III. Traffic Alert**

- Post a lookout to be aware of traffic situations
- Be prepared to move out of the way of vehicles in an emergency
- Work one side of the road at a time
- Do not enter the travel lane or the shoulder
- Face oncoming traffic while you work
- Work during the hours and days that are not peak travel times

- Do not pick up trash on the roadway shoulder.
- Do not enter or pick up trash on the median on any roadway.
- Do not enter or cross the traveled sections of the road
- Do not attempt to pick up items on ridges, in tunnels, or on overpasses. These areas are especially dangerous to pedestrian workers.
- Stay well clear of any moving operations, road maintenance or construction activities

#### **IV. What to Wear**

- WEAR A SAFETY VEST AT ALL TIMES WHEN WORKING IN THE RIGHT OF WAY
- Wear heavy work gloves
- Wear substantial leather shoes or boots with ankle support
- Wear long pants to avoid fleas and ticks
- You may wish to use sunscreen
- Do not use headsets that could interfere with your ability to hear oncoming traffic or other potential hazards

#### **V. Work Crews and Travel to the Site**

- **Call DOT (435-3205) to request trash bags and safety equipment (orange or green reflective vests)**
- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles at the site
- Park all vehicles well clear of the roadway and at least 10 feet from the shoulder surface
- Keep all vehicles on the same side of the road as the crew
- Work one side of the road at a time
- Watch footing when walking on slopes. Stay off steep slopes
- Be alert for holes and obstacles
- Be alert for places where snakes may be located, such as around old logs and in tall grass, and avoid these areas
- Be alert for stinging insects, especially fire ants
- Avoid contact with poison ivy, oak and other noxious weeds
- Avoid areas where herbicides were applied that day

#### **VI. Bagging the Litter**

- Do not pick up needles or syringes
- Do not attempt to remove known or suspected toxic/hazardous substances  
Notify DOT or the police of the location of such items immediately
- Do not attempt to compact (squeeze) trash. Injuries from broken or jagged objects often result from this practice

“Take the Pledge not to Litter”

“Don’t be a Litter Critter”

Onondaga County thanks you for participation in the Adopt A Roadway program