

# Adopt-A-Highway Safety Briefing

**Volunteers should always have a “tailgate” safety briefing before going to the job site. Please use the outline below to ensure all important topics are covered.**

## ***1. What should crew members wear?***

- Light colored clothing and safety vests at all times when working on the right-of-way.
- Heavy work gloves.
- Work type shoes or boots with ankle support. Tennis shoes and sandals are not recommended.
- Wear a hat and long sleeves to avoid sunburn. Use a sunscreen lotion on sunny days. Have plenty of ice water at the work site.

## ***2. Where should crew members park their vehicles?***

- Park all vehicles well clear of the roadway and at least ten feet (if possible) from the traveled portion.
- Keep the vehicles on the same side of the highway as the volunteers.
- Car-pool to the site to reduce the number of parked vehicles.

## ***3. What is the best way to protect workers from traffic?***

- Always face oncoming traffic while you work.
- Work together as a group. Do not separate.
- Do not work when it is foggy or when the roadway is slippery from being wet or icy.
- Work during daylight hours only.
- Post a reliable lookout person to be aware of traffic situations. Equip that person with a whistle. Be prepared to move out of the way in an emergency.
- DO NOT cross sections of traveled roadway.

- Make sure signs are set up properly.
- DO NOT wear portable music players that can interfere with your ability to hear oncoming traffic or other potential hazards.

#### ***4. What are the limits of the pickup areas?***

- DO NOT pick up items on the traveled roadway.
- Don't pick up trash in the median (center) of four lane, divided highways.
- Stay at least 5 feet back from the traveled portion of the roadway to pick up trash.

#### ***5. What should crews stay away from?***

- Don't attempt to remove any known or suspected toxic materials, hazardous substances, firearms, or other weapons. Notify ODOT or the Highway Patrol of the location of such items immediately.
- Stay away from suspected meth lab dump sites (red stained coffee filters, concentration of household cleaning bottles, propane tanks, etc.). Mark the area and notify ODOT or the Highway Patrol of the location immediately.
- Don't pick up discarded syringes or hypodermic needles.
- Be alert for places where snakes may be located, around old logs and in tall grass. Avoid these areas!
- Be equally alert for stinging insects, especially fire ants.
- Avoid contact with poison ivy, poison oak, and other noxious weeds.
- Don't attempt to handle large or heavy objects, or pick up dead animals.
- Don't attempt to pick up items on bridges or overpasses. These areas are especially dangerous to pedestrian workers.
- Stay clear of any mowing operations or other maintenance and construction activities.
- DO NOT wander onto private property.

**6. *What should we do in case of an emergency?***

- Every crew should carry a first aid kit and a cell phone. Be prepared in case there is a serious injury. Know the route from the work area to a hospital or other treatment center.
- Every crew should have transportation immediately available.