



# St. Louis County

[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)

**Adopt-A-Highway**

Safety Tips  
&  
Informational Brochure

## REMEMBER

A highway is a dangerous place to be. Every crew member should possess these qualifications:

- At least 12 years of age, unless otherwise permitted.
- Mentally alert, good common sense.
- Good physical condition, including sight and hearing.
- Sense of responsibility for safety of self and others.
- Supervision for workers under age 18.

## PLAN AHEAD

- Review all safety precautions.
- Assign work teams and leaders before you reach the site. Distribute trash bags beforehand.
- Estimate the amount of time for your pick-up and agree on a meeting place when you're done.
- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles along the road. Park vehicles on the shoulder in advance of the area and on the same side of the highway that crews are working.
- Bring along an adequate first aid kit. Identify the nearest hospital and know how to get there in an emergency.
- Don't overexert yourself. Bring along a supply of drinking water and take breaks.

## WHAT TO WEAR

- High-visibility vests provided by St. Louis County must be worn.
- Heavy leather shoes or boots
- Light-colored clothing; brightly colored cap
- Hat and long sleeves for sunburn; sunscreen; insect or tick repellent
- Heavy gloves

## SAFETY VESTS

Yellow vests we provide are to be reused until no longer serviceable and can be washed using the instructions on the vest tag. For organizations, please keep them in a location where they will be readily available to cleanup participants.

**Vests must be returned when your group discontinues from the program.**



## WHILE YOU WORK

- Work only during daylight hours, weather permitting.
- Work on one side of the road at a time. Do not cross from one side to the other.
- Whenever possible, face oncoming traffic. Stay alert and be prepared to move out of the way in an emergency. Stay with your team.
- Do not wear headsets, which could prevent you from hearing traffic or other hazards.
- Do not crush collected trash to make more room in the bag; broken or jagged objects could cause accidental injuries.
- Do not put syringes or hypodermic needles in the trash bags, as they can easily puncture the bag and cause serious injury. Take care to dispose of them properly or return them to Public Works for disposal.
- Do not horse around or do anything to purposely distract drivers.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE PROCEDURE

You may find hazardous waste in the form of:

- Paint (cans, buckets or aerosol)
- Cleaning solvents
- Driveway sealer
- Adhesives
- Pesticides
- Poisons
- Fluorescent lamps and other mercury containing items such as thermostats
- Containers of used oil
- Oil filters
- Antifreeze
- Grease and fuels
- Car batteries



Please do not handle these items or any other suspicious containers or barrels containing unknown liquid contents. Moving the containers could cause the contents to spill, potentially polluting the ditches and nearby streams. These items cannot go to the landfill with the "normal trash", but must be processed separately.

When encountering hazardous waste, please:

- Leave the item(s) in place
- Call us at 218-625-3832 or 1-800-737-9325 with the location of the nearest landmark (sign, address, fire number, etc.) and we will make sure that it gets disposed of properly.

Please share this brochure with members of your group before each clean-up to review safety precautions and program requirements.

## LANDFILL REGULATIONS

WLSSD requires that our groups separate raw materials, such as fruit and cans with food, from other trash.

## METH LABS OR METH WASTE

Do not touch, smell or examine meth lab waste! To report meth labs or meth waste, contact St. Louis County Emergency Communications at 911. For further information about meth labs, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 888-657-3908.



## PERMIT RENEWALS/CHANGES

- Permit renewals are mailed or e-mailed out to group representatives of record at the end of the two year term. Please take a moment to check off your option and return the permit.
- Notify us of any address or group representative changes. If the renewal notice is returned undeliverable, your group may lose their segment!

## REPORT YOUR CLEAN-UPS!!

After you clean up your segment, it is imperative that you call to report it. The proper garage will be notified to pick up the trash, and your clean-up will be noted on your account.

## WHAT TO AVOID

- Stay away from construction sites, mowing activities, open water, bridges, overpasses or retaining walls that could be dangerous for pedestrians.
- Avoid poison ivy or other noxious weeds.
- Stay away from recently applied herbicides.
- Never try to pick up heavy, large or hazardous materials. Notify Public Works for pick-up.

## SUPPLY PICK-UP LOCATIONS

- ❖ Pike Lake Public Works  
Administration/Engineering Division  
4787 Midway Rd.  
218-625-3832 or 1-800-737-9325
- ❖ Hibbing Garage  
1425 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.  
218-262-0150
- ❖ Virginia Garage  
7823 Hwy 135  
218-742-9800
- ❖ Ely Garage  
2210 E. Sheridan St.  
218-365-2380
- ❖ Linden Grove Garage  
11193 Hwy 1 (Cook)  
218-666-5261



St. Louis County Adopt-A-Highway is a public service program for volunteers to pick up litter along County roadways. For more information, call (218) 625-3831 in the Duluth area, or toll free at 800-737-9325.