

- Avoid open water, ravines, bridges, overpasses, retaining walls and mowing activities.
- Avoid poison ivy or other noxious weeds. Stay away from recently applied herbicides.
- Watch for broken glass, sharp metal objects and boards with exposed nails.

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

DO NOT MOVE, TOUCH OR PICK-UP THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Heavy or large items
- Needles, weapons, hazardous materials or water bottles of urine. Do not put syringes or needles in the trash bag. They can easily puncture the bag and cause serious injury.
- Explosives, abandoned barrels or other containers with unknown contents.
- Dead animals. If the animal is small, leave it for scavengers. If it is large, note the location and report it to St. Louis County.
- Meth lab wastes such as propane cylinders with brass fittings that are blue/green or modified, medicine boxes, pill residue (pinkish putty-like substance), respirator masks, rubber gloves, hoses and clamps, sheets and pillowcases stained pink or red, Corning or Pyrex containers with rubber hoses attached. Propane cylinders from gas grills are especially dangerous. They are used to transport anhydrous ammonia

and can explode causing burns and severe respiratory damage.

If you find any of these items, mark the location with a trash bag and report it to St. Louis County at 218-625-3860.

Parking

- Carpool to the site. Whenever possible, park in a nearby parking lot or seldom used driveway.
- If you must park on the shoulder, park as far as possible to the right. Park on the same side of the highway that you will be doing the clean-up so motorists see your vehicle before they see you.

Report Your Clean-Ups

After you clean up your highway segment, it is important that you report your clean-up to St. Louis County. Report your clean-up on your Adopt-A-Highway online account at www.stlouiscountymn.gov/aah. If you want St. Louis County to pick up the trash bags, please be sure to mark this in your clean-up report, including a brief location description.

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

Revised April 2020



**St. Louis County
Adopt-A-Highway
Program**

Informational Brochure

www.stlouiscountymn.gov/aah
218-625-3860



Thank you for joining the St. Louis County Adopt-A-Highway program. Your service to the residents of St. Louis County is very much appreciated. This brochure provides information about cleaning the highways as well as important safety information.

Requirements

1. Review this brochure's safety reminders with your group members.
2. Wear high-visibility vests anytime you are outside of your vehicle on the highway.
3. Complete at least two (2) clean-ups per year. Typically they are completed in the spring and fall.
4. Report your clean-ups to St. Louis County.

Failure to complete these requirements may result in your group being removed from the program.

Remember, a highway is a dangerous place. Every group member should possess these qualifications:

- Mentally alert and good common sense.
- Good physical condition, including sight and hearing.
- Sense of responsibility for safety of self and others.
- Supervision of workers under age 18.



Supply Pickup Locations

You can pick up high visibility vests and trash bags at the following locations. Offices are open Monday through Friday, except for holidays. Pike Lake office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. All other offices are open 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

- Pike Lake Office
4787 Midway Road
Duluth, MN 55811
218-625-3860
- Hibbing Office
1425 East 23rd Street
Hibbing, MN 55746
218-262-0150
- Virginia Office
7823 Highway 135
Virginia, MN 55792
218-742-9800
- Ely Office
2210 Sheridan Street, Suite 2
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-2380

High visibility vests are to be reused until no longer serviceable. Vests can be washed using the instructions on the tag. For organizations, please keep the vests in a location where they will be readily available to group members. **Vests must be returned when your group discontinues from the program.**

Plan Ahead

Before heading out...

- Select a clear day to do the clean-up. Work only during daylight hours and during good weather.
- Assign work teams and leaders before you reach a site.
- Distribute trash bags to each group member before you reach the site.
- Bring a first aid kit and a cell phone.

- Bring a supply of drinking water.
- Identify the nearest hospital and know the best route to get there in case of an emergency.
- Bring work gloves, hats and leather shoes or boots.
- Put on sunscreen and insect or tick repellent.

While you work...

- Work on one side of the road at a time. If possible, do not cross the road.
- Face the traffic while you work.
- Stay in a group and be constantly alert for approaching traffic.
- Use cell phones to communicate among teams.
- All-terrain vehicles are allowed as long as they are used in accordance with existing state laws and local ordinances.
- Secure bags by tying the ends. Place the bags near the shoulder but not on the shoulder.
- Do not crush the collected trash to make more room in the bags; broken or jagged objects can cause injuries.

Restrictions

- Do not clean-up in construction work zones.
- Do not wear headsets that could prevent you from hearing traffic or other hazards.
- Do not horse around or do anything to purposely distract drivers.