Adopt a Mile of Missouri – And a Safety-First Attitude

Welcome to the Adopt-A-Highway program! While you're making a difference picking up litter, mowing or beautifying your adopted roadside, make sure you're doing it safely.

These guidelines were developed with your safety in mind. Please follow them at all times!

Adopter's Guide to Safety

Volunteers Must

- Attend a safety briefing, led by your adopter representative. He or she must send in participant forms verifying all members have taken the training.
- Display caution flags on signs before performing adoptive work. Remove flags when finished.
- Wear a safety vest.
- Be aware of oncoming traffic.
- Be cautious when crossing roadways. Use crosswalks and signals whenever possible.
- Stay clear of construction projects, mowing operations and maintenance activities.
- Work only during daylight hours.
- Have at least one adult supervisor for every eight participants age 13 to 17, and one adult supervisor for every four participants age 6 to 12. Children under age 6 may not participate.
- Watch footing when walking on slopes and be cautious of holes and obstacles.
- Operate mowing equipment on roadsides only, not on roadways or shoulders.
- Remove litter before mowing. Do not throw debris onto roadways or shoulders.
- Look over the entire area for dropoffs, obstacles or hazards before mowing.
- Stay off steep slopes (steeper than a 3-to-1 ratio) when using a riding mower.

Volunteers Should

- Wear light-colored clothing, a hat, long sleeves, heavy work gloves and protective shoes or boots.
- Face traffic.
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects, ticks and poison ivy.
- Wear sunscreen.
- Drink water to prevent dehydration.
- Carpool to work sites to reduce the number of vehicles on roadsides. Park all vehicles off roadways and shoulders. And, when possible, unload work crews on roadsides rather than on shoulders or highways.
- Be aware of any special needs of fellow volunteers.

- Be careful when using a litter-pickup stick.
- Be careful not to leave holes or depressions in the roadside following any beautification work.
- Remove all excess material after planting trees and shrubs.

Volunteers Must Not

- Use or possess illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages before or while working on roadsides.
- Work on roadways, shoulders, medians, bridges or inside tunnels.
- Work during bad weather, extreme temperatures and peak travel times.
- Participate in horseplay or activity that might distract drivers.
- Work to the point of exhaustion.
- Work where herbicides recently have been applied. If in doubt, check with your MoDOT contact.
- Pick up, remove the lid from, shake or even touch any hazardous substances, like syringes or drug-making equipment, or any other suspicious litter. Instead, mark the area in some way and call MoDOT or your area's Missouri State Highway Patrol.
- Overstuff litter bags, or compact them. Remember to tie bag tops and place them together, if possible, near the roadway shoulder.
- Mow straight up or straight down slopes.

Always Be Prepared

- Be sure each crew has a first-aid kit.
- Have transportation available at all times.
- Know the location of and route to the nearest hospital or emergency room.
- Keep at least one cell phone with the group at all times, if possible.
- We suggest you take a certified first-aid class.

Think safety first – and thank you for joining the Adopt-A-Highway program!

For more information, call ***1-888-ASK-MODOT*** *(275-6636)*
www.modot.state.mo.us

For safety vests, safety video, caution flags, additional safety brochures or litter bags, contact the Adopt-A-Highway coordinator in your district.

MoDOT Districts and Headquarters

Northwest District
3602 North Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64502
(816) 387-2350

Southwest District
3901 East 32nd Street
Joplin, MO 64802
(417) 629-3300

North Central District
902 N. Missouri Street
Macon, MO 63552
(660) 385-3176

Springfield Area District
3025 East Kearney
Springfield, MO 65801
(417) 895-7600

Northeast District
1711 South Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401
(573) 248-2490

South Central District
910 Springfield Road
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3134

Kansas City Area District
600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64064
(816) 622-6500

Southeast District
2675 North Main Street
Sikeston, MO 63801
(573) 472-5333

Central District
1511 Missouri Boulevard
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3322

General Headquarters
105 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551

St. Louis Area District
1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017
(314) 340-4100

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(275-6636)
www.modot.state.mo.us

Missouri Department of Transportation
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The Adopter's Guide to Safety

Tips for Missouri Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers