

Docking Parish Council – Litter Pick Event Risk Assessment

Risk Identified	Possible Outcome	Severity (1-5)	Likelihood (1-5)	Overall Rating (SxL)	Mitigating Actions Required	Controls in Place? (Y/N)	Further Action Required	Review Date
Moving traffic (areas near roads)	Collision causing serious injury or fatality	5	2	10	High-visibility vests must be worn by all participants; no litter picking undertaken within the carriageway; no picking on high-speed roads; temporary warning signage and/or cones used where appropriate; clear road safety briefing provided; participants to face oncoming traffic where safe; designated “lookout” appointed where working near roads; no use of personal music players, earphones or headphones during the event		Confirm safe picking zones and signage availability	
Slips, trips and falls (uneven ground, kerbs, wet grass)	Sprains, fractures, minor to moderate injury	3	3	9	Volunteers to wear sturdy footwear; avoid steep or unstable ground; pre-event site inspection; caution advised on uneven surfaces		Complete site walk prior to event	
Handling sharp objects (glass, needles, metal)	Cuts, puncture wounds, infection	4	3	12	Gloves must be worn; litter pickers used (no hand collection); sharps not handled by volunteers; report to event lead; first aid kit available; arrange safe disposal via appropriate authority		Confirm sharps reporting procedure	
Hazardous substances (chemical containers, unknown waste)	Burns, poisoning, skin irritation	4	2	8	Do not handle suspicious containers; report to event lead; arrange removal via appropriate authority		Remind volunteers during briefing	
Manual handling (lifting full bags or bulky items)	Strains, back injury	3	3	9	Do not overfill bags; team lifting for heavy items; brief volunteers on safe lifting techniques		Include manual handling in briefing	

Adverse weather (cold, rain, wind, strong sun/heat)	Hypothermia, heat exhaustion, dehydration, sunburn	3	3	9	Check forecast prior to event; advise suitable clothing; encourage use of sun cream (SPF 30+) and hats; provide drinking water; encourage rest breaks; parents/guardians responsible for providing and applying sun cream to children; postpone/cancel event in severe weather conditions	Confirm forecast review 48 hours prior
Children participating	Increased risk of injury	4	2	8	Participation restricted to adults unless accompanied by a parent/guardian; children must be supervised at all times; responsibility for children remains with parent/guardian; safety briefing provided; no independent working	Communicate supervision requirement in advance
Contact with members of the public	Verbal abuse or conflict	2	2	4	Volunteers to work in pairs or groups; wear high-visibility vests; refer issues to event lead; avoid confrontation	Nominate event lead contact
Biological hazards (animal faeces, dead animals)	Infection or illness	4	2	8	Avoid direct contact; use litter pickers; do not eat during litter pick; wash or sanitise hands after event; hand sanitiser provided	Provide hand sanitiser
Inadequate first aid provision	Delay in treatment of injury	4	2	8	First aid kit available; identified responsible person; emergency contact numbers held; emergency access maintained	Confirm first aider attendance
Waste storage and collection after event	Obstruction of pavements or roads	2	2	4	Designated collection point arranged; bags not left blocking public access; prompt collection organised	Confirm collection arrangements

Risk Rating Guide

Severity:

1 = Minor injury

2 = First aid required

3 = Injury requiring medical attention

4 = Serious injury

5 = Fatality

Likelihood:

1 = Rare

2 = Unlikely

3 = Possible

4 = Likely

5 = Very Likely