

Special Handling Reference List

When in doubt.

STEP AWAY. Move your volunteers to safety.

DO NOT TOUCH.

ASSESS THE HAZARD. If immediate danger, call the appropriate hotline number or dial 911.

If less urgent:

Document with photos and GPS pin.

Flag if appropriate.

Report to proper agency (or to your designated incident manager.)

Contact your coordinator.

Write down contemporaneous notes and file appropriately.

PRESCOUTING: walk your site before the day of the event. Look for things that need special handling. Flag, mark, document, assess, report. Determine what needs to be removed before volunteers hit the area.

TRESPASSING: Gain appropriate permissions to clean or cross private lands. (Stream team landowners permission guide.) Do not ignore no trespassing signs. Purple paint on trees and fences are no trespassing signs. If you are along a creek, remain below the high water mark. Politely leave if asked to do so by a landowner. If possible notify local law enforcement of your activities in advance.

POACHING: Bank poles and jug lines should be plainly labeled and easy to read. Traps on the other hand the label may be found under the dirt and will not be as easy to read. Conibear traps with a 5" jaw spread set above the high water line need to be reported. Do not manipulate traps or wildlife in traps in any way. Best option is to call an agent if there are questions or concerns. Lines that appear to be abandon and are not labeled, may be removed. Bank poles that are unlabeled, should not be removed because someone may still attempt to claim these items as property even if there is no label. Best option is to talk with an agent and get direction from them.

SHARPS and NEEDLES: Small amounts of needles can be cleaned up without notifying law enforcement. Do not let volunteers pick them up. Place them in an appropriate sharps container. If you do not have sharps containers, you may use a thick walled plastic jug like a detergent jug. It should have a large opening so you can drop them in easily. Do not fill it more than half full. If you do not have either of those things you can use another plastic bottle or wrap in cardboard. Put the container in a trash bag. Do not mark it. Do not leave it sitting beside the trash pile. If you put it in the trash you have an obligation to do everything you can to make sure that a worker handling the trash bag will not get stuck.

NEEDLE STICK. If you or a volunteer get stuck by a needle, wash the area with soapy water. Follow up with a Dr within 1-2 days. As a team leader you may choose to get hepatitis vaccines and make sure your tetanus vaccine is up to date.

MEDICAL WASTE: Household medical waste that does not have flowing blood and can be cleaned up wearing gloves. Double gloves are encouraged. Medical waste that looks like they may be from commercial activity should be reported.

TANKS, BARRELS, CHEMICALS. Step away! DO NOT MOVE. Report to DNR. If you take it, you own it and you are responsible for cleanup costs. Flag with tape. Note marks and labels. Take a picture. Get GPS coordinates. Call it in.

DRUGS AND DRUG CAMPS. Drug labs and marijuana farms are increasingly close to streams and under bridges. Drug labs may look like homeless camps but they contain things like butane containers and lots of household and industrial chemical containers, propane tanks, tubing and bottles of waste. These sites should be avoided. Trust your 'spidey senses' and do not enter or visibly document the sites if you feel uncomfortable. Report them to law enforcement. Do not enter pot groves. They are likely booby-trapped and also likely watched.

Bottles containing unidentified liquids should be left in place. Lots of bits of wax paper may indicate processing of pure THC and can be considered hazardous. If a site is cleared by law enforcement for you to clean, wear double gloves. DO NOT use hand sanitizer. Wash in soapy water.

CLEAN UP. Because there is a slight chance that you or your volunteers could come in contact with illicit drugs while cleaning up needles or lab sites, you should never use hand sanitizer. Carry a labeled water bottle or gallon jug of water with a few drops of soap in it and rinse your hands thoroughly. Your coordinator may provide for other soap and water hand washing stations. If in doubt, use the stream if you are nearby. If anyone exhibits strange symptoms after using hand sanitizer, seek medical attention immediately and notify medical personnel that the individual may have come in contact with drug residue prior to using the hand sanitizer.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

- Smaller than a band aid be SURE to tell them to see a physician (even for a small scratch).
- Bigger than a band aid call 911
 - Isolate the problem
 - Provide on-site assistance at the level you are personally comfortable/trained
 - Do not transport individuals in your personal vehicle.
 - call 911
 - Report to Rendezvous leader
 - Make notes
 - who

- what
- how
- witnesses
- on site response
- SAVE your notes! Have some one else initial and date them.
- Avoid talking to media. Direct inquiries to Project Coordinator or Press Agent.

MEDIA. While media are not hazardous, they may require special handling. Avoid talking to the media during an emergency. Have a phrase such as "Excuse me, I need to make sure my volunteers are safe. Please refer any questions to organization management." We will be working on some more sample media plans. Check with your coordinator.

Step one, step away!