

# Safety Rules and Guidelines

## For Volunteers

### All Volunteers Must:

- Wear a NCDOT approved orange safety vest.
- Wear light-colored clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Wear leather shoes or boots, gloves, a hat and safety glasses.
- Wear clothing that will not divert attention of motorists during cleanup activities.
- Wear clothing that will not impair vision or movement during cleanup activities.
- Carpool to the site to reduce number of vehicles.
- Park all vehicles clear of the roadway and on the same side of the road where volunteers are working.
- Be 12 years of age to participate in a cleanup.
- Furnish adequate supervision by one or more adults 21 years of age or older for groups that have participants 12-17 years of age.
- Pick up litter only during daylight hours.
- Stay off the road at least five feet from the pavement edge.
- Obey all safety rules and guidelines.
- Conduct a safety meeting for all participants prior to each cleanup and go over "Safety Rules and Guidelines for Volunteers" and "Safety Procedures for Litter Pickup"
- Work in small groups.
- Face oncoming traffic when picking up litter and look up often to ensure that no vehicle is encroaching your work area.
- Stay well clear of any construction.
- Stop work in inclement weather.
- During warm weather months, drink plenty of fluids – take breaks – avoid overexertion.
- During cold weather months, dress warmly with layered clothing.
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects and poisonous plants.
- Avoid contact with noxious weeds and areas where herbicides were applied.
- Use proper lifting and bending techniques.

### Volunteers Must Not:

- Use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol during a cleanup.
- Pick up trash on the road surface.
- Pick up trash on bridges, on overpasses or in tunnels.
- Pick up trash on a median.
- Pick up what appears to be hazardous material or any type of container with unknown contents (notify your Adopt-A-Highway coordinator or NCDOT maintenance office if you encounter hazardous objects or holes, guy wires and other hidden obstacles in the ground).
- Attempt to squeeze bags to make room for more trash (injuries from broken or jagged objects can result from this practice).

### In Case of Emergency:

- Have an adequate first-aid kit immediately available.
- Know the route from the work area to the nearest medical facility.
- Have transportation immediately available.

### For the Safety of Department of Transportation Crews:

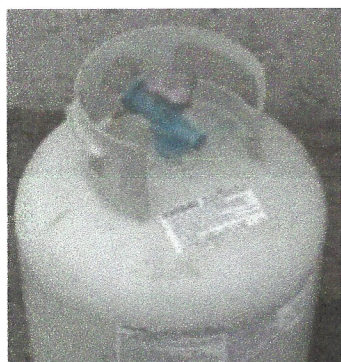
- Group the orange bags together and where practical place them at least eight feet from the side of the road to make the job of collecting bags easier and safer for our NCDOT employees.

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING SAFELY!**

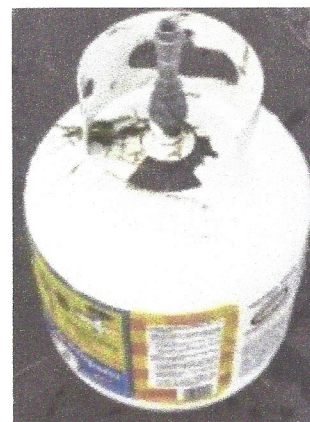
# Safety Alert – Hazardous Materials

The following information, if followed, will help protect individuals from dangers posed by Hazardous Waste along the highways.

**METH LAB WASTES:** Methamphetamine drug lab waste can be found in many shapes and forms. Over 300 different chemicals can be used in production of the drug depending on the procedure used. The waste can be disposed of in many different ways.



Propane cylinders from grills are used to transport anhydrous ammonia. This ammonia can burn your skin and cause very severe respiratory damage. These tanks, when used with the brass fitting, can explode when moved. The ammonia degrades the brass to the point where it can blow the fitting out of the tank, endangering individuals in the area. The brass fittings on the tanks will turn a blue to blue green color as shown in the picture on the left. Some tanks have been modified with other fittings. If you find cylinders, **DO NOT**



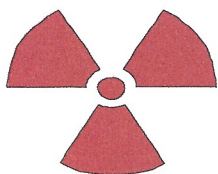
**TOUCH** but note location and report it to your local police department and your North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) county maintenance office.



Other meth lab waste could be medicine boxes, pill residue (putty looking substance pink to red in color), respirator masks, rubber gloves, rubber hoses and clamps, pyrex glass, corning containers and other containers with rubber hoses attached. Bed sheets or pillowcases stained red or containing a white powdery residue may also be found.



## RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS:



If you see this symbol or the words **RADIOACTIVE** on a package, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

## BIOHAZARD MATERIAL - MEDICAL WASTE:



This is the symbol for biohazard materials that could possibly be found on the roadway. If you find a container with this symbol **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.



This container was labeled as having Methyl Ethyl Ketone in it. It was tested and found to contain used motor oil. Labels on containers **DO NOT** always correspond with their contents. If you find a container that has a material in it, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

The lid on this drum is expanded outwards which indicates a good possibility of pressure inside container. There is a danger of exploding if this container were moved or touched. Other types of containers may also be found and if you are unsure whether the container is safe to handle, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.



## OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

*Never pick up the following:*

Antifreeze	Hypodermic needles
Abandoned barrels	Narcotics
Broken automotive batteries	Paint cans
Bulging or dented containers	Pesticide/Herbicide containers
Chemical containers	Propane tanks
Containers leaking an unknown substance	Sharp objects
Containers of unidentifiable materials	Unidentifiable containers
Dead animals	Used oil
Gas Cans	Weapons

### DO:

1. Always approach a container from uphill and upwind. The wind will blow any vapors away from you and approaching from uphill will prevent you from walking into any chemical present on the ground.
2. Leave the area immediately if you detect any odors out of the ordinary. Odors can be connected with meth lab hazardous waste as well as other chemicals found, so do be alert for odors that are:
  - Ether-like
  - Solvent-like
  - Vinegar-like
  - Ammonia-like
3. Put your safety and the safety of the individuals with you **FIRST AND FOREMOST**.
4. If you feel a situation is or could possibly be unsafe leave the area immediately, be careful, don't take chances and please work safely.
5. Note the location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

# One Pot Meth Labs Dangers to First Responders

