Roadside Cleanup

Spring is the perfect time to complete roadside cleanup. Most of the trash on the side of the road is not hazardous, however, some items found along the side of the road can pose dangers. We have included some tips and advice for making roadside cleanup as safe as possible.

Removing Dead Animals from the Road

Using a shovel

1. Put on gloves (work gloves, nitrile gloves, or rubber gloves).
2. Using the shovel, pick up the animal.
3. Place the animal in the truck bed.
4. When you arrive at the facility, bury the animal deep in the ground, cover with lime so other animals do not try to dig it up.
5. Once completed, sanitize your shovel with bleach to prevent the transmission of diseases such as rabies.

Without a shovel

1. Put on gloves (work gloves, nitrile gloves, or rubber gloves).
2. Turn a large plastic bag inside out.
3. Pick up the animal using the plastic bag.
4. Close the bag right side up.
5. When you arrive at the facility, bury the animal deep in the ground, cover with lime so other animals do not try to dig it up.

Roadside Litter Cleanup

- Best to do early in the season before vegetation gets too tall.
  - Be mindful of insects, bees, and ticks.
- Be aware of meth lab waste such as solvents, HEET containers, 20-gallon propane cylinders, containers with tubing, bottles with unknown substances in them, trash bags with a solvent smell, coffee filters or paper towels with unusual stains, large quantities of glass and plastic containers, buckets, and plastic tubing. If you find these items, contact the authorities. If you cannot wait for the authorities to arrive, mark the location of the item(s) so they can find it.
• Be aware of used needles. Do not touch them, call the authorities so they can use an appropriate sharps disposal unit.
• Be cognizant of fentanyl. If you find an unknown white substance, call the authorities. Do not touch or disturb the unknown substance.

UNH T2 is pleased to provide free and customized Technical Assistance to local road agencies on a variety of road maintenance and transportation infrastructure-related topics, including bridge preservation and maintenance activities. Please reach out to t2.center@unh.edu for additional resources, support, or technical assistance, or visit https://t2.unh.edu/.

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Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations. Follow all appropriate safety procedures as well, including work zone safety as it applies to the given task.