



Safety Guidelines

Safety is the number one concern during a cleanup event. We appreciate your leadership and know you will take steps to keep your volunteers safe. Below are some extra considerations to review and relay to volunteers to help prepare you for unanticipated scenarios. Before volunteers begin the cleanup, **these guidelines should be reviewed with all volunteers.**

If applicable, provide your mobile phone number to volunteers in case they have questions or non-emergency situations during your event. In the event of an emergency, dial 911. Report any injuries or accidents within two business days of the occurrence to:

Volunteer@cumberlandrivercompact.org
Cumberland River Compact
615-837-1151

1. Do not place sharp objects in bags.
2. Do not climb cliffs or steep embankments.
3. Do not pick up firearms or other explosive devices. Call a non-emergency police number and report that you've found it.
Write local Police Department phone number here: _____
4. Do not pick up hypodermic needles with hands, even if you are wearing gloves. Do not place them in bags.
5. Stay out of a stream after a period of heavy rain, especially if the stream is fast moving and the water level is high.
6. Do not empty out bottles with unknown contents. Bottles may have unsafe or unsanitary contents. Throw those away!
7. Do not pick up hazardous materials, unsafe items, or dead animals. Do not feel obligated to remove a piece of trash that you are not comfortable handling. For example, if something looks too heavy to move or has sharp edges and can't be handled safely, please leave the item.
8. Do not drink water from any stream. Refreshments should be provided by the project organizer or brought by volunteers. Participants are encouraged to take breaks, drink fluids, and avoid overexertion.
9. Always work in groups of two or greater.

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