

# SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

## Safety

1. Do not go near any large drums.
2. Wear heavy gloves and closed toe shoes at all times, and have clothing and sun-block to protect you from the sun.
3. Be cautious in the dune areas. Dunes are ecologically fragile and can't bear the tromping of feet.
4. Don't lift anything too heavy; when in doubt, don't try!
5. Don't touch or pick up dead animals, or attempt to move injured animals. Make your cleanup captain aware of the animals and where they are.
6. Don't pick up syringes, needles, or any sharp objects. Mark the area and notify the cleanup captain or local official of their locations.
7. Always stay in teams of at least two.
8. Avoid over-exertion, sunburn, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. When in doubt, come in early.
9. Children should always be supervised by an adult.

## What to pick up

We pick up only human-created matter (plastics, metal, glass, Styrofoam, etc.). We do not pick up any fishing gear or pieces of fishing gear (see below for more detail). Natural debris (algae, kelp, driftwood, etc.) is part of the natural system we are working to restore and should be left alone. Avoid disturbing plants and animals (see below for more information on animals).

## Data Cards

The information volunteers collect on data cards is, literally, being used to revise national maritime disposal policies, and is used to advance environment-protecting legislation.

- Although there is not a space to list every single piece or type of trash we expect to see during the cleanup, volunteers should still pick up every piece of debris they find.
- When filling out cards, count items in groups of five (as shown in the example on the card), and record the total in the box.
- Do not write the words "lots" or "many." Count every piece and be specific! Only actual numbers of items can be used.
- While the debris items are listed under what has proven to be their most typical sources, not all of the trash we pick up is directly related to the activity under which it is listed. The impact of storm drains on our oceans and waterways is enormous, and much of what we find on our beaches and in our water originates from inland areas.

## New England Aquarium Rescue

The New England Aquarium Rescue & Rehab Department is interested in any marine mammals or sea turtles, either alive or dead, that you may find during your cleanup. Please give them a call at **617-973-5247** and let them know what you find.

Once they receive your call they can dispatch field volunteers to collect valuable data if necessary. If it is a live seal it may just be resting, but they are interested in getting a call so the animal can be counted toward population numbers. It is very helpful to obtain photos of the animals for species identification, so if you have a camera and are willing to take a photo it would be greatly appreciated.

Even if it is a dead animal, they are interested in collecting information. When you call the above number please leave your name, a phone number you can be reached at, the type of animal and the condition, and a good description of the location the animal can be found. Thank you very much for your assistance.

## Fishing Gear

If you find any commercial fishing gear or pieces of commercial fishing gear, do not move it. Instead, note any identification numbers and report it to the MA Environmental Police Dispatcher at **617-626-1650**.

According to *MGL Chapter 130: Section 31. Destruction or injury to weir, pound net or fish trap. Section 31:* "Whoever without the consent of the owner takes or uses or destroys, injures or molests any weir, pound net, fish trap, seine, set net or lobster or crab pot or other fishing gear, or any fish car or other contrivance used for the purpose of storing fish, including any such fishing gear which is swept ashore by storm or tide or other natural causes and deposited upon the shore, beaches or flats, whether public or private, or takes fish there from without the consent of the owner, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred nor more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for two months, or both."