

## Activity 134 Litter Pickup

### Description

Activity 134 involves picking up, loading, hauling, and properly disposing of accumulated litter, illegal signs and dead animals from roadways, shoulders, and roadsides. It also includes the servicing of litter barrels and all costs associated with disposing of the material and recycling performed by maintenance workers.

### General Information

Also refer to discussion in the General Instructions section preceding Activity 130 in this section of the *Maintenance Guide* for additional information including environmental and traffic control recommendations and other important considerations.

Use Activity 135 for any work by or for the Youth Litter Patrol or the Adopt-A-Highway programs.

Use Activity 164 for clean up of illegal camp sites.

Where appropriate, separate litter items that are recyclable and handle accordingly. Refer to ODOT *Procedure ADM 06-13* for instruction on returnable beverage containers.

For the removal of illegal signs placed on state highway right of way refer to OAR 734-060-0060 to 0075.

Refer to the ODOT *Safety and Health Manual* for handling and disposing of drug paraphernalia and other potentially hazardous items. Advisory ADV02001 provides guidance and advice on hazards associated with picking up and handling litter.

If litter, dead animals, or debris pose a traffic hazard or are aesthetically unacceptable, the Transportation Maintenance Manager should have the material removed as soon as possible. If it does not pose a traffic hazard and is not aesthetically unacceptable, schedule the cleanup with routinely scheduled work or when non-ODOT forces are available to perform the work.

### Dead or Injured Animals

If an animal has been injured by traffic but is not dead, notify the Transportation Operations Center (TOC) to request law enforcement to respond and humanely kill the animal. If an ODOT employee is comfortable in doing so, the employee may strike the injured and dying animal on the head with a blunt object to prevent it suffering further. This should be done out of view of the public.

ODOT will remove animal carcasses on or along a state highway:

- Which are in view of the travelling public.
- Which may create odor problems for nearby properties.
- For which ODOT has received a complaint.
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No ODOT employee may retain any animal or animal body part for personal use, since that is a violation of ORS 498.042.

The following is ODOT's practice regarding dead animals on or along a state highway.

1. If a carcass poses a hazard to the traveling public, remove it as soon as possible. If the carcass does not pose an immediate hazard, schedule the removal when it reasonably fits into the work schedule.
2. Remove carcasses to reduce driver distractions and secondary collisions with scavengers.
3. Dispose of carcasses as close as possible to the site they are found.
4. The disposal site should be:
  - Located away from dwellings or businesses.
  - A location not normally visited or used by the public.
  - A location where any resulting odor is not likely to offend people.
  - Far enough off the roadway that traffic will not kill or injure any scavengers that may feed on the carcass.

When practical, provide the carcass to a wildlife rehabilitation center qualified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Bury domestic animals where their owner can find them if requested. If burial is not practical, dispose of domestic animals in compliance with local requirements, such as at a certified landfill. If identification is available on the animal, this information should be given to the manager or coordinator for contacting the owner.

5. Disperse the locations for disposal of carcasses when possible. Notify the Oregon State Police (OSP) of sites where several animals have been buried or otherwise disposed of in close proximity.
6. Report the location and approximate time of death (yesterday, last night, etc.) to the TOC to prevent multiple requests to respond to the same carcass.
7. Pay particular attention to disposing of carcasses of animals not regularly seen on highways, such as cougars, bears, elk or deer with antlers, eagles, etc., and:
  - Remove the carcass from view of motorists as soon as possible and dispose of it as discussed above.
  - Report the exact location of the disposal site to the TOC, preferably by telephone.
  - The TOC will notify OSP of the disposal site and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Wildlife Biologist when a cougar or bear is found. The TOC will also notify OSP if any meat can be salvaged for human consumption (elk is generally the only meat practical to salvage). OSP, ODFW, or Federally Recognized Tribes may request the carcass be transported to a specific location.

- Mark the disposal site if requested by OSP, ODFW or Federally Recognized Tribes.
8. If a carcass has already decomposed too much to be moved, use quicklime to accelerate decomposition of the carcass. Use this method only in extreme situations. Do not use lime if it could enter waterways before it is neutralized.

### Equipment

Equipment may include:

- Vehicle to transport workers.
- Truck to haul gathered litter.

### Material

Material may include:

- Litter bags.
- Hazmat warning devices (flag or similar).
- Biohazard waste collector.
- Quicklime for animal carcasses, as appropriate.

### Work Method

1. Identify limits of the roadway section where litter needs to be gathered.
2. Implement appropriate traffic control. Whenever possible, persons gathering litter should move in the direction facing adjacent traffic.
3. Pick up litter. This may involve a “leap frog” process with 2 or more people and a vehicle.
4. If hazardous material is encountered, mark its location as appropriate and properly collect it in suitable containers.
5. Remove traffic control.
6. Gather filled litter bags and dispose of at an appropriate location. Properly dispose of animal carcasses.

### Measurement of Accomplishment, Expenditure Account, and Charge Activity

Measurement is number of worker hours involved. Expenditure account type is Highway EA; use a sub job appropriate for the crew performing the work.

Use a sub job within the 800 series if the work involves bicycle path facilities. These sub jobs are assigned by the Maintenance Management System (MMS) Unit based on the type of work performed.

- Charge all work to Activity 134.