

Chapter 6

Roadside Cleanup Program

6.0 Introduction

Description

The Roadside Cleanup Program includes activities such as the following:

- Removal of debris, litter and trash.
- Involvement of Adopt-a-Highway.
- Clean up by sweeping or flushing traveled ways, shoulders and paved ditches.

Purpose

The following conditions should be considered when establishing a maintenance work plan for activities in this program:

- Areas that are known to be a problem for large litter on the roadway.
- Areas with dead animals.
- Areas with accumulations of debris, paper, and other debris.
- Areas known to require extra sweeping such as intersections and areas of frequent bicycle use.

Large objects should be removed from the roadway surface as soon as possible. Roadsides should be cleaned, as needed, to preserve a neat and attractive appearance, and swept to reduce air particulates. This will improve safety and address environmental concerns.

MDT encourages organizations to adopt sections of the highway for litter and debris removal (Adopt-a-Highway Program). On highway sections not adopted, maintenance personnel should remove the litter and debris as available resources and time allow.

Safety and Training

Supervisors should review safety, training and work zone requirements with employees and ensure compliance with approved guidelines.

Environmental Best Management Practices

Supervisors should be aware of environmental concerns. Special precautions must be taken to protect water quality near streams, lakes, and wetlands. Dispose of waste materials at an appropriate site.

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Resources

MMS Manual of Instruction

Adopt a Highway Handout

MDT Employee Safety Policy and Procedures Manual

6.1 Removal of Debris and Litter (MMS 1203)

Activity Description

This activity includes removing litter, debris and trash from the right-of-way including Adopt-a-Highway litter collection.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to remove debris from the highway that could cause a driving hazard and provide a right-of-way that is free of large debris, reasonably clean and aesthetically pleasing. Maintenance is responsible for pickup and disposal of bags and debris from the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Refer to Adopt-a-Highway Guidelines for program specifics.

Timing of Maintenance

Routine periodic patrols should be established to remove roadway debris. Debris and dead animals should be removed as encountered, conditions permitting, while performing this and other work activities. Depending on the particular area, the frequency of cleanup is determined by the accumulation of litter, debris, and hazardous items creating unsightly, unsanitary and hazardous conditions. Caution should be used in disposing of dead animals. Refer to MDT Environmental Best Practices.

Picking up the bags from Adopt-a-Highway should be on the first workday after the clean up.

Materials

Provide plastic bags to contain the litter and debris and signs and vests for volunteer safety.

Safety and Training

When picking up debris, especially large and awkward items, employees should use proper lifting techniques so the chances of personal injury are minimized. Employees who discover containers that contain unidentifiable contents should report the information to their supervisor. Maintenance workers should not move such materials unless it is determined to be non-hazardous. Personal protective clothing equipment should be used when picking trash.

Special Precautions

Usually the safest, most efficient method to pick up litter is for workers to face oncoming traffic as they work. Trucks should be parked between the worker and oncoming traffic. Be aware that roadway litter or trash may contain glass and other biohazard materials. Extreme care should be exercised so trash bags do not brush against anyone or rupture while loading.

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Environmental Best Management Practices

Dispose of materials in an appropriate site.

Procedures

1. Setup appropriate traffic control if appropriate.
2. Regularly inspect roadsides and remove accumulated litter.
3. Remove traffic control if appropriate.
4. Haul and dispose of litter at an approved landfill.

6.2 Sweeping or Flushing (MMS 1201)

Activity Description

This activity includes removing gravel, dirt and sand from intersections, bridges, the travel ways, shoulders and paved ditches by sweeping or flushing with water.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to:

- Remove sand and dirt from the roadway, bicycle and pedestrian paths, which may be a hazard to motorists, bicyclists and others.
- Prepare surfaces for striping.
- Remove excess winter materials from intersection, streets and roadways as soon as practical.
- Remove sand, dirt, and aggregate that may interfere with drainage from the roadway and paved ditches.
- Reduce air and water pollution.
- Improve the appearance of the roadway.

Approvals

Before fire hydrants are used, approval must be obtained from the local entity responsible for the hydrants.

Timing of Maintenance

- Dirt, sand or other debris on the roadway that may be a safety hazard should be removed as soon as practical.
- Special attention should be given to bike and pedestrian pathways, and roadways for bicycle usage particularly in urban areas.
- Since dirt or sand on the roadway contributes to degrading air quality, it should be removed as soon as practical in non-attainment and high risk areas.
- Dirt, sand or small debris accumulated along curbs, gutters, dikes, etc., that may disrupt drainage or contribute to sedimentation in storm drains or to water pollution should be removed as soon as practical.
- Flushing should not be done when freezing temperatures are likely.
- Sweep before roadway striping, if required.
- Sweep excess winter material from the roadway as soon as practical. In high-risk bike paths and non-attainment areas, materials should be removed as soon as possible.

Specialized Equipment

- Mechanical/Vacuum brooms
- Flush Truck
- Attenuator

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Safety and Training

Supervisors should review safety, training and work zone requirements with employees and ensure compliance with approved guidelines.

Special Precautions

Proper traffic control measures for slow moving operations should be followed when sweeping or flushing. Travel in the same direction as the traffic moves.

During sweeping operation, don't allow materials to get into waterways.

Environmental Best Management Practices

Best management practices include:

- Using water (as needed to reduce dust during sweeping.
- Storing/disposing of removed materials at an appropriate site in an appropriate manner. (Removed material may be temporarily stored in stable locations to prevent the material from entering wetlands or waterways.)
- Scheduling sweeping when feasible during damp weather to minimize dust.
- Applying provisions of the local State Implementation Plan (SIP) In PM-10 air quality non-attainment areas.
- Coordinating crews when feasible to follow sweeping/flushing with bridge drainage cleaning.
- Removing sweepings produced from paved surfaces within 25 feet of identified sensitive waters or water quality non-attainment waters as identified in coordination with resource agencies if the design of the facility allows.
- Placing sediment barriers when feasible and practical in site-specific locations along stream routes or directing drainage to route swept material away from surface water.

Procedures

1. Place the appropriate traffic control and use shadow or warning vehicles for sweeping or flushing when appropriate. (Reference: MUTCD for mobile operations.)
2. Sweep or flush surface until desired results are obtained.
3. Pre-wet roadways with chemical de-icer; using appropriate de-icer application equipment may be required prior to sweeping in freezing conditions.
4. Do not use chemical de-icer in sweeper pre-wetting tanks.
5. Remove traffic control by reversing the order used to set up the control.
6. Dispose of debris and litter at approved sites.