



# Otsego County Road Commission

## ADOPT-A-ROAD SAFETY RULES

### *GENERAL SAFETY RULES:*

- County road traffic travels at high speeds, and most drivers don't expect to see crews working along the roadside. Be alert and use good common sense at all times.
- Crew members should be in good health with good sight and hearing.
- Crew members must be at least of twelve (12) years old to participate in a cleanup. Adequate supervision must be furnished by one or more adults 21 years of age or older for groups that have participants 12-17 years of age.
- One person should be designated crew leader to ensure everyone follows the safety rules.

### *SAFETY RULES:*

- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles on the roadside.
- All vehicles should be parked well off the right shoulder. Do not park on paved shoulders.
- Parking is not allowed along curves, on bridges, near or under overpasses, or in medians.
- All occupants in vehicles should exit and enter the vehicle on the side opposite of traffic.
- Keep vehicles on the same side of the county road as crew members.
- Work only one side of the road at a time.
- Crew members should not carry knives, machetes, axes, etc.
- Do not overfill or compact trash bags because of the danger of injuries from broken or jagged objects. Fill bags with what goes in easily, then start a new bag.
- Keep crews together for better visibility to motorists.

### *PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHER CREW MEMBERS:*

- Face oncoming traffic as you work whenever possible. Be prepared to move out of the way of vehicles in an emergency.

- Stop working in bad weather, especially when there is poor visibility and wet or icy roads.
- Work during daylight hours.
- Avoid overexertion. Drink lots of water, especially on hot, humid days.
- Post a person to look out for traffic dangers.
- Have a refresher session on safety awareness each time a crew goes out.
- Never walk on the county road.
- Avoid the use of headsets.
- All workers must wear an orange/lime colored safety vest while working on the roadside. Other clothing should be light colored for increased visibility.
- Wear gloves.
- Watch your footing. Wear substantial leather shoes or boots with good ankle support. Stay off loose stones and steep slopes.

*AVOID:*

- Contact with poison ivy, poison oak, and other noxious weeds.
- Areas which are being mowed or where other construction or maintenance activities are being conducted.

*AND PLEASE:*

- DO NOT pick up discarded syringes or hypodermic needles.
- DO NOT try to remove unknown or suspected toxic substances. Notify the Road Commission or the police of the location of these items immediately.
- DO NOT enter the roadway or the shoulder areas to pick up trash.

*IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:*

- Every crew member should have an adequate first-aid kit. Be prepared for serious injury.
- Select an emergency room/hospital and know the route to it from the work area.
- Every crew member should have transportation immediately available.
- Use a vehicle with a cellular telephone or CB radio if available.