

A Special Thank You

The Adopt-A-Highway Program staff extends their sincere thanks to the following volunteer groups who participated in the filming of *Get Serious About Safety*.

- California Conservation Corps, Shasta-Pacific Service District, Ukiah Satellite
- California Native Plant Society, Sanhedrin Chapter
- Humboldt County Office of Education Gang Risk Intervention Program
- Jim Beckwourth High School
- Manila Highway Improvement Project
- Rancho Murieta Association
- Weed High School Key Club

Facts & Stats

Did you know that California's Adopt-A-Highway Program began in October of 1989? After one month, the first Adopt-A-Highway status report showed a total of nine adoption permits issued statewide: five were for litter removal, two were for tree planting, and one was for wildflower planting. One year later, there were 498 groups. Today, there are nearly 4,700 adoptions statewide. At approximately two miles per adoption, that translates to an astounding 9,400 miles adopted – over half of the roadsides in California's state highway system! The Adopt-A-Highway Program saves California taxpayers an estimated \$25 million per year.

Number of Adoptions

Litter Removal.....	3944
Graffiti Removal.....	306
Wildflower Planting.....	241
Tree Planting.....	89
Vegetation Management.....	35
Mission Bell.....	43
Other.....	34
TOTAL.....	4692

Roadside Remedies

Here's a great idea from Caltrans' maintenance crews who pick up litter. You can use a stick found along the roadside to help prop your bag open.



1

Place a stick on the outside of the bag about 4" from the top of the bag.

2

Fold the bag over the stick. Then fold the bag and stick one more time toward the outside.

3

For best results, the stick should be about 2' long and 1 1/2" wide.

Credits

Get Serious About Safety is published by
California Department of Transportation Division of Maintenance

Governor
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Please address comments or questions to
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Adopt-A-Highway Program, MS-31
1120 N Street
Sacramento CA 95814



New Adopt-A-Highway Safety Video is Now Available!

Caltrans has received a supply of new videos to assist Adopt-A-Highway Program volunteers.

The new, two-part video entitled *Get Serious About Safety* is packed with helpful information about the Adopt-A-Highway Program's safety steps. Part one, called *Advanced Preparation*, focuses on the responsibilities of group leaders. It lasts about 13 minutes

and includes information about obtaining safety equipment and developing work strategies. Part two, called *Let's Get to Work*, is for group leaders to show when giving safety training to their group members. It lasts about 15 minutes and demonstrates safe work practices for all participants. (Please call the representative listed on your Encroachment Permit and make arrangements to get your free video.)



Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, September 15, 2001
is California Cleanup Day!

Adopt-A-Highway participants are invited to join volunteers from all over the world in this international cleanup event. "California Cleanup Day" is one of two major cleanup events that the Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program supports each year, the second being "April is Keep California Beautiful Month." For more information about these events, please visit our web site at <http://adopt-a-highway.dot.ca.gov/>.



California
Cleanup Day



Introducing the Adopt-A-Highway Safety Bulletin



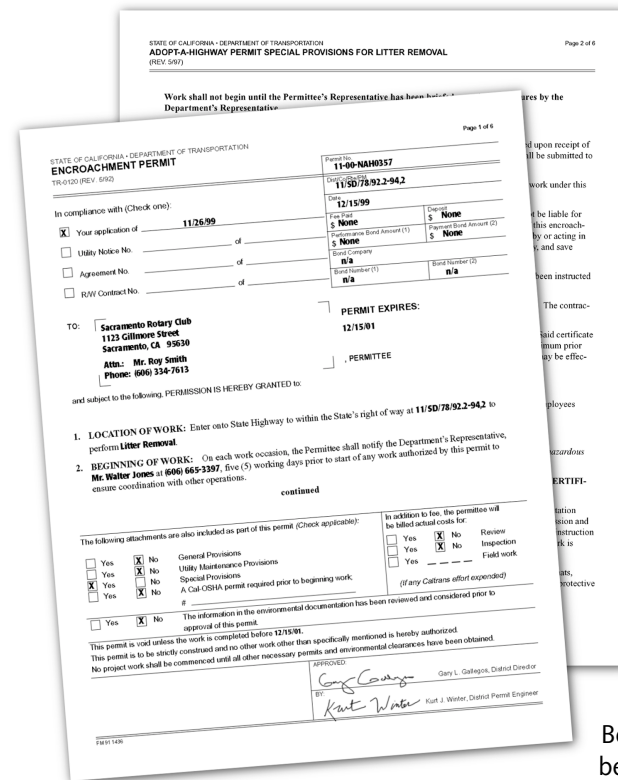
Get Serious About Safety is not only the name of our new safety video, it is also the name of our new safety bulletin for volunteers. Groups are encouraged to submit questions about work and safety issues to the Adopt-A-Highway Program staff to answer via the bulletin. A regular section, called "Roadside Remedies," has been included so that adopters can share helpful tips with each other. Other regular features will include articles for group leaders and Adopt-A-Highway Program Facts and Stats.

Have a Suggestion, Question, or Roadside Remedy to Share?

Please submit your contributions to Terri Patterson at: Caltrans Office of Roadside Maintenance Adopt-A-Highway Program, MS-31 1120 N Street Sacramento CA 95814

Comments or questions regarding the new safety video would be appreciated.

Attention Group Leaders: Do You Know Where Your Encroachment Permit Is?



The Encroachment Permit and Adopt-A-Highway Permit Special Provisions are your contract with Caltrans. They are legal documents that entitle you to work on the State highway right-of-way. They also list all of the requirements of your adoption, including safety procedures.

As group leader, it is your responsibility to carry a copy of the Permit with you while working. In addition, you must see to it that each vehicle parked on the right-of-way has a copy of the Permit placed on the driver's side dashboard so that it is visible through the windshield.

If you have lost your Permit, or "inherited" the responsibility of group leader and were never given a Permit, please call your district Adopt-A-Highway coordinator at 1-866-ADOPTAHWY to request a copy.

Examine Your Permit

Because you are the group leader, your name should be listed in the "to:" section on page one of the Encroachment Permit. If a previous group leader's name is listed, then you must contact your district Adopt-A-Highway coordinator to have this updated. It is each

group's responsibility to notify Caltrans of any change of address, phone number, or group leadership.

Check your Encroachment Permit's date of expiration. If your Permit has expired then you do not have permission to be on the State highway right-of-way and risk being issued a traffic citation. If your Permit has expired, do not continue to work. Instead, contact your Adopt-A-Highway coordinator in order to be mailed a current copy or to have your Permit renewed.

Group Leader Safety Orientation

If your group's Encroachment Permit was not originally issued to you, chances are that you have never received a safety orientation from Caltrans. Item number two of your Adopt-A-Highway Permit Special Provisions states that "Work shall not begin until the permittee's representative has been briefed on safety procedures by the Department's representative." If you are a group leader and have never received a safety orientation from Caltrans, please call the representative listed in item number two of your Special Provisions and make arrangements to receive a safety orientation. (Besides being a requirement, getting to know your Caltrans representative and visiting a Caltrans maintenance facility can be interesting and fun as well.)

FAQs: What Should We Do With Containers of Urine?

It's a sad fact that more and more adopters are finding containers of urine left on the roadsides. Urine is a hazardous substance and cannot be taken to a landfill for disposal. Therefore, you must not "bag" containers of urine or any other biological waste. So what should you do with the stuff?



First of all, leave the containers where you found them. Make a mental note of where they are located and how many containers

there are. If you think that the Caltrans collection crew might have trouble finding the containers, then place a filled bag near the items. Once you've completed the rest of your cleanup, your group leader will need to report the urine the Caltrans. Call the representative listed on your Encroachment Permit that day, or the next working day, during normal business hours. You may leave a voice message. Be sure to mention the location and number of containers present.

Sometimes people use unclosed, recyclable containers for urine disposal. If your group takes home recyclable items for redemption, please use extra caution. Resist the temptation to empty containers of unknown liquids.

Bag It, Move It, or Leave It?

Have you ever wondered what to do with something you've found on the roadside? If so, you will be glad to know that the Adopt-A-Highway Program has developed a reference sheet called *Bag It, Move It, or Leave It?* Side one divides roadside litter into three general categories:

- Items you may bag.
- Items you should move and place alongside your stacked bags.
- Items you must leave where you found them.

Further instructions are given regarding items to be left; you may be advised to take no further action, call Caltrans, or call 911. Side two lists specific items of concern, such as broken glass, motor oil, and weapons, and gives handling instructions for each. Please ask for a copy of the *Bag It, Move It, or Leave It?* instruction sheet when you pick up your safety video.

