



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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MEDIA CONTACT: Erin Strouse, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Jed Thorp, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Helps Clean Up Nearly 7,000 Scrap Tires in Gallia, Jackson, Meigs and Vinton Counties in January

Ohio EPA helped clean up and recycle 6,780 scrap tires at 10 illegal dumps in Gallia, Jackson, Meigs and Vinton counties last month. Funding for the cleanups came from Ohio's Scrap Tire Management Fund, which is comprised of a \$1 fee collected on new tires sold in Ohio. Ohio EPA's Scrap Tire Management Program oversees the state-financed cleanup of tire piles in Ohio that pose the most significant threats to human health, public safety and the environment. If not properly managed, scrap tire piles may harbor rats and become a prime breeding ground for dangerous disease-carrying mosquitoes. Tire dumps also can spawn dangerous fires that produce noxious smoke and oils.

If a landowner fails to remove scrap tires at larger sites, Ohio EPA can hire a contractor to remove the tires, and the owner will be required to reimburse the Agency's costs. For sites with 100 to 2,000 scrap tires, Ohio EPA's Scrap Tire Management Program invites eligible landowners to voluntarily participate in a Consensual Scrap Tire Removal Agreement. As part of this agreement, the state undertakes the collection, removal and proper disposal of up to 2,000 scrap tires of any size and other solid wastes at a property at no cost to the property owner. Ohio EPA hires contractors and often partners with local health departments to clean up the tires. Participating landowners sign an agreement, stating that they either inherited the property with scrap tires on it or were the victim of open dumping.

The scrap tires removed from Gallia, Jackson, Meigs and Vinton counties last month included a mixture of passenger tires and tractor trailer tires. Since a tractor trailer tire weighs about 100 pounds (five times more than a passenger tire), Ohio EPA calculates cleanups in terms of passenger tire equivalents (PTEs). The 6,780 scrap tires cleaned up from these four counties last month equal 8,073 PTEs. Since 2005, a total of 117,591 PTEs have been removed from 63 sites in these four counties which collectively form the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs-Vinton Solid Waste Management District. For the state's consensual removal program, the limit of 2,000 scrap tires is based on actual tires, not PTEs.

Gallia County - 2,780 PTEs weighing nearly 28 tons were removed from a property on Vaughn Road last month. This cleanup involved a mixture of 1,280 passenger tires and 300 tractor trailer tires. (Approximately 1,230 additional PTEs have been removed from four other sites in Gallia County this state fiscal year.)

Jackson County - 361 PTEs weighing nearly four tons were removed from a dump on Dark Hollow Road last month. (Approximately 99,365 additional PTEs have been removed from 38 other sites in Jackson County since state fiscal year 2006.)

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Meigs County - 3,870 PTEs weighing nearly 39 tons were removed from properties at State Route 124 and Elk Run Road, a dump on Blake Hill Road and scrap tires staging areas at the Rutland Township Garage and Salem Township Garage last month. (Approximately 7,725 additional PTEs have been removed from eight other sites in Meigs County in state fiscal years 2009 and 2010.)

Vinton County - 1,062 PTEs weighing more than 10 tons were removed from three separate dumps on Malone Road, Minerton Road and Goose Creek Road last month. (Approximately 1,000 additional PTEs have been removed from four other sites in Vinton County in state fiscal years 2009 and 2010.)

Since 1998, Ohio EPA has helped clean up approximately 4.3 million PTEs in Southeast Ohio and 38 million PTEs across the state at a cost of nearly \$51 million. Each year, more than 12 million scrap tires (19.2 million PTEs) are generated in Ohio. While many of these tires are recycled (an estimated 84 percent) or otherwise properly disposed, some end up in stockpiles or in illegal dumps. An estimated two million scrap tires (3.2 million PTEs) remain in illegal dumps in Ohio. Scrap tires can be properly disposed and/or recycled in Ohio at the licensed facilities listed at www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/facility_lists/lic_tire.pdf.

Ohio EPA encourages citizens to call their local health department, Ohio EPA district office or Ohio EPA toll free at 1-877-372-2621 to report locations of scrap tire dumps. Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office in Logan can be reached at (740) 385-8501 or (800) 686-7330. Inspectors can cite scrap tire violations such as open dumping of solid waste, improper storage of scrap tires and failure to provide mosquito control. State regulations also limit the height and width of tire piles and require wide fire lanes between piles to make firefighting easier and to keep fire from spreading to other tire piles.

As a complement to Ohio EPA's Consensual Scrap Tire Removal Agreement, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) offers a tire amnesty grant to help promote sustainable scrap tire collection drive programs, as well as scrap tire drop off and cleanup events. Ohio EPA can transfer up to \$500,000 per year to ODNR (Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention) from the state's Scrap Tire Fund for scrap tire amnesty days and scrap tire cleanups at the local level. ODNR is using this money to fund the grant and will accept applications through April 5, 2010.

For more information on ODNR's Tire Amnesty Grant:
www.ohiodnr.com/Home/Grants/TireAmnestyGrant/tabid/22464/Default.aspx

Ohio EPA was recognized in 2006 by the National Registry of Environmental Professionals and the Rubber Manufacturers Association for having one of the nation's top scrap tire abatement programs.

For more information about Ohio EPA's Scrap Tire Cleanup Program:
www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/34/document/guidance/gd_651.pdf
www.epa.ohio.gov/dsiwm/pages/tirepro.aspx