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Ohio EPA Orders 6,000 Tires Removed from Abandoned Harrison County Landfill

Citing a danger to public health and the environment, Ohio EPA has ordered Martin Landfill Corporation or its corporate owners to remove 6,250 scrap tires at the abandoned Martin Landfill located near U.S. Route 22 in Cadiz Township (Harrison County).

Unlicensed scrap tire sites pose a potential danger to public health and safety and the environment. If not properly managed, tire piles may harbor rats, become a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes and be susceptible to fires that emit noxious smoke and oils. Ohio EPA is especially concerned, given how close Martin Landfill's tire dump is to nearby schools and roadways.

Ohio EPA has ordered Martin Landfill Corporation or its corporate owners to stop accepting and disposing solid waste and tires; implement mosquito control measures; and establish proper storage piles of tires and fire breaks between piles until all tires are removed. The scrap tires must be properly removed and disposed by mid-August. If neither the company nor the corporate owners comply with the orders, the Agency may seek reimbursement from them after hiring a contractor to remove the tires.

Landfill Resources Incorporated (LRI) is listed as the current owner of the landfill. The former property owners, Jack and Ethel Martin, transferred the property to LRI. LRI later merged with Martin Landfill Corporation which operated the landfill until 1991, when Ohio EPA ordered it to properly close the landfill for solid waste law violations, namely failure to restrict access to the property and allowing open dumping of scrap tires to occur. Enforcement efforts against the Martins have been exhausted and attempts to locate Martin Landfill Corporation's corporate owners have been unsuccessful.

Funding for state-financed tire cleanups comes from Ohio's Scrap Tire Management Fund, which is comprised of a \$1 fee collected on new tires sold in Ohio. Each year, more than 12 million scrap tires are generated in Ohio. Most of these tires are recycled or otherwise properly disposed, but an estimated two million scrap tires remain in illegal dumps in Ohio.

Ohio EPA encourages citizens to call their local health department or Ohio EPA toll free at 1-877-372-2621 to report locations of scrap tire dumps or learn more about the licensed tire disposal and recycling facilities in Ohio.

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www.epa.ohio.gov

Martin Landfill Corporation settlement:
www.epa.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=L41YIH9dF2I%3d&tabid=4614

Ohio EPA's Scrap Tire Management Program:
www.epa.ohio.gov/dsiwm/pages/tirepro.aspx