

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORDavid Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Acting Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****September 27, 2011**

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**New Mexico Environment Department  
Seeks Public Assistance to Prevent Tire Dumping**

**Santa Fe, NM** – Solid Waste Bureau (“SWB”) officials with the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”) have observed an increase in the illegal dumping of scrap tires. Recent instances have occurred on both privately-owned and public lands. Those tire dumps include state-owned land near Wagon Mound, the dumping of thousands of scrap tires near the Rio Puerco in Bernalillo County, and thousands more scrap tires upon the ground at privately-owned property near Grants, New Mexico.

It was because of such problems that the Recycling and Illegal Dumping Act (“Act”) was enacted and the Recycling, Illegal Dumping and Scrap Tire Management Rule (“Rule”) was promulgated. The Act and Rule are part of the NMED’s commitment to protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of New Mexico.

“Unlawful tire dumping and abandoned stockpiles pose serious environmental risks and health hazards, including the risk of disease vector harborage and fires,” said the NMED’s Secretary, Dave Martin. “The state’s regulation of scrap tires is intended to curb illegal dumping and to provide straight forward procedures for businesses, such as automotive dealerships or tire shops, to assure safe and proper transportation, recycling or disposal of scrap tires.”

The Act and Rule prohibit illegal dumping and require that a scrap tire manifest accompany every load of ten (10) or more scrap tires. The manifest system is designed to track tires from “cradle to grave,” that is, from the point of generation (e.g., automotive dealership, tire shop) to the final destination (e.g., tire recycling facility, landfill or permitted civil engineering project). The Act and Rule also require generators of scrap tires to hire scrap tire haulers that are properly registered with the NMED. Such haulers, in turn, are required to deliver the scrap tires only to authorized final destinations and to return the completed scrap tire manifest to the generator – thereby providing evidence of proper recycling or disposal.

Despite the NMED's regulatory requirements, not every person is willing to abide by the law. As a citizen of New Mexico, you can help prevent scrap tire mismanagement or unlawful disposal by asking your tire dealer if the company uses a registered hauler, where the tires will be taken, and whether the company uses the NMED scrap tire manifest for all of the tires removed from the business.

If you observe the illegal dumping of scrap tires, or if you suspect that a scrap tire generator or hauler is delivering scrap tires to an improper location, please notify your local police or sheriff's department, municipal code enforcement officer, or you may file a complaint using the NMED's Environmental Notification & Tracking System ("ENTS") by pointing your browser to [http://nmenv-it.nmenv.state.nm.us/EnvComp/Incident/incident\\_hdr\\_add.php](http://nmenv-it.nmenv.state.nm.us/EnvComp/Incident/incident_hdr_add.php). Alternately, you may notify the NMED's Solid Waste Bureau directly by calling (505) 827-0197, during business hours. Of course, emergencies, such as a tire fire, should be reported by dialing 911.

For more information about the Act, Rule or the NMED's Tire Recycling Program, point your browser to the SWB's webpage at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWB>. You may also contact the SWB's Tire Recycling Coordinator, Toni Duggan, at (505) 827-0559.

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