



Minnesota  
Pollution  
Control  
Agency

Metro District,  
Operations and  
Planning

# Waste Tire Disposal

Waste, July 1998

About 280 million waste tires are discarded annually in the United States. The typical U.S. tire dealer may generate 600 to 800 waste tires per month; a retreader may generate up to 3,000 per month. And a relatively small illegal tire dump operation could easily collect 40,000 waste tires a month, or a staggering half-million in only one year.

There are many compelling reasons to regulate the management and disposal of waste tires, including concerns for public health, because of the breeding of disease-carrying mosquitos, the potential for fire hazards, as well as the expense of cleaning up after tire fires. For these and other reasons, Minnesota concluded that throwing waste tires into stockpiles presented environmental and public health concerns, and that burying them in a landfill consumed valuable landfill space and wasted a resource.

## Directing the Flow of Tires

Minnesota's waste tire management system is founded on the proper collection, transportation, disposal and processing of waste tires. So, it is vital that the millions of waste tires we generate every year from retail tire outlets is kept out of illegal tire dumps, ravines, ditches, wooded areas, and other unsafe locations.

The MPCA has made outstanding progress in cleaning up the state's tire dumps, removing and recycling an estimated 2.7 million tires between 1988 and 1994.

However, other dumps continue to spring up overnight as people look for quick-and-dirty alternatives to responsible disposal of waste

tires. Making sure that waste tires are taken to a permitted waste tire processing facility or transfer station is vital to protecting our environment and public health.

## A Tire Retailer's Responsibility

If you are a retailer who collects more than 100 waste tires in a year as part of your routine business, you are required under the state's waste tire management rules to do the following to ensure that waste tires are handled and disposed of properly.

- Store no more than 500 waste tires on-site at any time. These tires must be kept moving off the site to a permitted processing or transfer site. If a retailer plans to store more than 500 waste tires, a storage permit from the MPCA is required. This permit, among other things, will require the business to have money set aside to pay for the removal and processing of the waste tires upon closure.
- Hire a transporter with a MPCA identification number to dispose of your waste tires. Or, take your waste tires to a disposal facility with a MPCA permit.
- Keep waste tire disposal records for the past three years. The following information must be included: date of shipment; number and type of waste tires; name and MPCA ID number of the transporter, if one is used; and name of the disposal facility.

The MPCA spot-checks retailers in areas where there are suspected cases of illegal dumping of waste tires.



On the last page of this fact sheet is MPCA's Waste Tire Disposal Documentation Form for tire retailers and automotive retailers to use to record their disposal of waste tires.

Photocopy this form or print it off from the MPCA web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us> if you would like to use this format.

### **Too Good to Be True**

Transporters who offer to take waste tires at a price that seems too good to be true may not be authorized and could be dumping tires illegally. Generally, fees charged by transporters range between \$1 to \$3 per passenger car tire (and more for oversized tires). Fees that are significantly lower may indicate illegal dumping. Tipping fees at final disposal sites around the state, such as a processing facility, range from \$55 to \$100 per ton.

A person offering to take tires who does not have a MPCA ID number is transporting waste tires illegally. Retailers who hire unauthorized transporters may be liable for costs associated with cleanup of an illegal tire dump.

### **Penalties for Illegal Dumping**

Significant penalties can be levied against a transporter or retailer for dumping waste tires illegally -- up to \$20,000 per day under civil penalty laws. In some cases, criminal prosecution may be sought.

### **Consumer Tire Disposal Fees**

Since April 1, 1989, retailers who sell tires have been required by law to take one waste tire for each new tire they sell. Many retailers have taken waste tires from their customers as a service when new tires are purchased and may charge a small fee for the disposal of the waste tire.

However, some tire dealers charge an unreasonably high disposal fee on waste tires received from customers. These retailers comply with state law, but their high disposal charges defeat the objectives of the law and discourage compliance among citizens.

The law encourages citizens to work with their tire retailers to responsibly and legally dispose of waste tires. If retailers are charging excessive disposal fees to customers for waste tire disposal, consumers should question the reasons why or consider another retailer.

### **For More Information**

If you would like more information about MPCA's waste tire management program, you can call any MPCA Regional Office (located in Duluth, Detroit Lakes, Brainerd, Marshall and Rochester) at our toll-free number, (800) 657-3864 or the MPCA's Information Center at (651) 296-6300 in the Twin Cities Metro area. TDD users can call either (651) 282-5332 or the toll-free number for assistance.

