

AN ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD!

Stockpiles of scrap tires are not just unsightly – they pose a serious threat to human health and the environment. Fires are a constant danger. Tire fires are very difficult to extinguish and many have burned for months, releasing thick, black smoke containing hazardous compounds and toxic gases into the atmosphere. The oil and ash created by a tire fire can threaten ground, surface and drinking water. Because tires stored outside retain water and absorb sunlight, they also pose a health threat by providing an ideal breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
Planning and Administrative Support Program
4244 International Parkway, Suite 104
Atlanta, GA 30354
404-363-7026

The Buck Starts Here



**HOW THE SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT FEE
IS WORKING TO PROTECT GEORGIA'S
ENVIRONMENT**

MANAGING THE PROBLEM

By 1992, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) had identified



approximately 3.8 million tires in stockpiles throughout the state. Faced with a growing number of scrap tire stockpiles and a fire at one large stockpile, the General Assembly established a tire management fee to be applied to the sale of all new replacement tires sold within the state. The purpose of the fee is to help cleanup improperly managed tires and develop new programs to manage scrap tires and other solid waste throughout Georgia.

ONE FEE, MANY USES

The law requires tire retailers to collect a tire management fee of \$1.00 for every new tire they sell. These funds are remitted quarterly to the Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for deposit into Georgia's Solid Waste Trust Fund. EPD administers the Solid Waste Trust Fund for:

- Cleanup of illegal tire dumps
- Development and implementation of local government solid waste enforcement and education programs
- Implementation of innovative technologies for the recycling and reuse of scrap tires
- Educational and other efforts to promote proper tire management, waste reduction, recycling, and recycling market development



Since the enactment of the fee in 1992, EPD has cleaned up more than 8.5 million scrap tires.

YOUR TIRES ... YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

According to national statistics, every person in the United States generates one scrap tire per year - that's 7.5 million annually in Georgia. Each of us has a responsibility to make sure the scrap tires we generate are properly handled. The best way to do that is to leave your old tires with a tire retailer who is in the best position to see that they are reused or recycled. You may be assessed a disposal charge by a tire retailer for this service. This charge will vary depending upon the type of tire and the cost to the tire retailer to process your scrap tires. *The \$1.00 per tire management fee is not a disposal fee.*

As a word of caution, you should also know that most solid waste haulers will not pick up or accept your scrap tires if you should decide to take them home with you and dispose of them later.

WHY SCRAP TIRES HAVE NO VALUE TO CONSUMERS

State law promotes the reuse and recycling of scrap tires. For the most part, whole tires are banned from landfill disposal. Most worn tires, if they cannot be reused, are typically processed into tire chips by tire processors and used as fuel or as a drainage material in septic system leach fields throughout Georgia.



Although we are hopeful that someday your worn tires will have value, today there is a cost associated with the proper disposal of all scrap tires. Someone must bear the cost of proper scrap tire management - a tire retailer, a landfill or solid waste transfer facility, or you directly as the consumer.

While processed scrap tires have some value, scrap tire processors earn most of their revenue by charging a tipping fee at the gate to their facility.



GETTING MORE MILEAGE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

As technology improves and new markets are developed for processed tires, the value of scrap tires should increase to provide more revenue to processors. It is hoped that in this case, processors will actually pay consumers for their tires.

Until then, the best value you as a consumer can derive from your scrap tires is to make sure they are properly disposed of. In the long run, the "buck" you pay for each new tire you purchase will go a long way in helping to protect Georgia's environment - and that helps all of us!

