



# Used Tire Program Biennial Report



2020 - 2021



## Used Tire Program Mission

The mission of Illinois EPA's Used Tire Program is to:

- 1) ensure that used tires are managed in compliance with all environmental requirements so as to prevent the existence of breeding habitats for disease-carrying mosquitoes and minimizes the threat of tire-related fires;
- 2) ensure improperly managed used and waste tires are removed from the environment for beneficial reuse, recovery, or recycling; and
- 3) promote the existence of sound, stable, and legitimate markets for used tires in Illinois.

## Used Tires and West Nile Virus/Zika Virus

Improperly-managed used and waste tires present a public health threat by providing a prime breeding habitat for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Adult mosquitoes lay eggs in the stagnant water present in used and waste tires. When organic matter (leaves, grass, etc.) are present in the stagnant water, mosquito eggs can develop into adults. The mosquito species most often present in used and waste tires, *Culex pipiens* (Northern House Mosquito), is the primary carrier of the West Nile Virus. In addition, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* (Asian Tiger Mosquito) are known carriers of the Zika virus. Due to the link between the improper management of used and waste tires and the proliferation of mosquito-related diseases, the Illinois EPA routinely monitors used tire sites throughout Illinois for compliance with statutory and regulatory used tire management standards to ensure that mosquito proliferation does not occur as a result of poor tire management.



Illinois EPA continuously strives to increase public awareness of the public health threat that improperly managed used and waste tires present. As part of this effort, Illinois EPA conducts a used tire collection program for units of local government to remove and properly dispose of used and waste tires collected from public and abandoned properties. Illinois EPA encourages citizens and units of local government, as well as law enforcement authorities, to monitor and report suspected sites that may present a threat to public health. Through these efforts, we can help minimize the occurrence of mosquito-related diseases in Illinois.

## Highlights

- The Environmental Protection Act was amended to strengthen the oversight of used tire storage and processing facilities. The amendments require facilities with more than 10,000 passenger tires on site, or that process more than 500 tons of used tires in a calendar year, to obtain a permit from the Illinois EPA. More than 20 permits have been issued to date.
- The Illinois Pollution Control Board updated its rules governing the management of used tires, pursuant to the changes made to the Environmental Protection Act.
- During state fiscal years 2020 and 2021 the Illinois EPA conducted **more than 3,500 used and waste tire inspection activities**.
- **The Illinois EPA continues to provide waste tire removal actions for state and local entities to assist with their waste tire disposal needs.**



## Facility Oversight

Pursuant to the recent changes to the Environmental Protection Act and Pollution Control Board rules, Illinois EPA has begun the process of permitting large used tire storage and processing facilities. This permitting, along with inspections, help ensure facilities operate in compliance with environmental requirements and do not pose a threat to human health and the environment. To date, Illinois EPA has issued more than 20 permits.

The Illinois EPA continues to conduct inspections that focus on tire storage and processing facilities of all sizes, disposal sites, generators (retailers), and transporters. The universe includes:

- more than 3,500 generators/retailers;
- more than 450 transporters;
- more than 260 storage facilities;
- more than 30 processors; and
- approximately 14 million used tires generated annually



The Illinois EPA also registers used tire transporters to help ensure the proper transportation and recycling/disposal of used and waste tires. In addition, when the Illinois EPA inspects tire retailers, records are reviewed to confirm the collection of a \$2.50 per tire fee imposed on the sale of new and used tires, and submittal of the fee to the Illinois Department of Revenue. This statutorily-mandated fee is critical to the State's ability to regulate the used tire industry, ensure the proper reuse and recycling of used tires, monitor and eliminate waste tire dumps, and fund public education/awareness efforts and research about the proliferation of mosquito-related diseases.

## Used Tire Cleanups

Over the past two years, Illinois EPA's used and waste tire removal activities have been focused on assisting units of local government with the removal and proper disposal of waste tires collected from public and abandoned properties. During state fiscal years 2020 and 2021, 78 used tire collection events were conducted for units of local government, which resulted in the removal and proper disposal, reuse, or recycling of more than 3,849 tons of used and waste tires. Most used and waste tires collected by the Illinois EPA are shredded for use as tire-derived aggregate in civil engineering applications and as tire-derived fuel in cement kilns, pulp and paper mills, and in the utility sector.

If conditions at a used tire storage or disposal site pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment, Illinois EPA has enforcement authorities to mitigate the problem. The traditional enforcement process can be utilized to hold property owners and operators responsible for the removal of accumulated tires. In many instances, Illinois EPA has partnered with local enforcement authorities to share resources and closely monitor illegal dump sites to obtain the most expeditious removal action possible. Effectively and efficiently addressing illegal tire sites continues to be a top priority.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## Illinois EPA Regional Offices

To report used tire complaints please contact your local Illinois EPA regional office:

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### Rockford Region

4302 North Main Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61103  
815/987-7760

### Counties Served:

Boone, Bureau, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle,  
Putnam, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago

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### Des Plaines Region

9511 West Harrison Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847/294-4000

### Counties Served:

Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake,  
McHenry, Will

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### Peoria Region

412 SW Washington Street  
Peoria, Illinois 61602  
309/671-3022

### Counties Served:

Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough,  
Marshall, Mercer, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell,  
Warren, Woodford

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### Champaign Region

2125 South First Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61820  
217/278-5820

### Counties Served:

Champaign, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt,  
Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Livingston,  
McLean, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, Vermilion

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### Springfield Region

1021 N. Grand Ave. East  
Springfield, Illinois 62702  
217/785-8604

### Counties Served:

Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Logan  
Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike,  
Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott

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### Collinsville Region

1101 Eastport Plaza Drive  
Collinsville, Illinois 62234  
618/346-5120

### Counties Served:

Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Randolph  
St. Clair, Washington

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### Marion Region

2309 West Main Street  
Marion, Illinois 62959  
618/993-7200

### Counties Served:

Alexander, Clay, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin  
Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Massac, Perry, Pope,  
Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White,  
Williamson

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The SFY 2020-2021 Used Tire Program Biennial Report is produced by the

## Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

John J. Kim, Director