



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2021

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## Don't be a dumping ground for waste tires

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** Kurt Levetzow, field services and compliance, at 319-653-2135 or [Kurt.Levetzow@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kurt.Levetzow@dnr.iowa.gov); or Mel Pins, land quality, at 515-729-4616 or [Mel.Pins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Mel.Pins@dnr.iowa.gov).

While most of Iowa's 3 million old tires are disposed of properly each year, some illegally disposed tires recently left unsuspecting landowners with a financial headache and environmental concerns.

"In the last 18 months, we've seen a few unregistered haulers in eastern Iowa who collected waste tires from businesses and then stockpiled or abandoned them in farm fields, wooded lots or even mini-storage units," said Kurt Levetzow, supervisor of DNR's southeast Iowa field office. "In a few cases, they've actually burned the tires, which creates toxic smoke and degrades air quality."

Cleanup of illegally disposed tires can be costly. In 2020, the city of Davenport spent more than \$85,000 to remove approximately 18,000 tires from a residential property where a waste tire hauler violated DNR's disposal guidelines. DNR revoked the hauler's \$10,000 financial assurance bond to reimburse the city for a small portion of the costs.

"If you're paying someone to pick up your old tires, you are required to use a DNR-registered waste tire hauler," says Mel Pins, DNR's waste tire coordinator. "If you're paying a price that's extra cheap, you should be extra concerned, as that individual is most likely not registered with DNR. And that tire may come back to haunt you."

For more than 30 years, Iowa law has prohibited land disposal of waste tires. Waste tires cannot be dumped, buried or burned. No more than 500 waste tires can be stored. Use a properly registered waste tire hauler and processor who regularly disposes of tires to help keep storage under the 500-tire limit.

"We have an excellent network of registered and permitted waste tire haulers and processors in the Midwest," said Pins. "If businesses and individuals use them, they have no further liability."

“I’ve had 25 years of experience as ‘The Tire Guy’ at DNR, and I’m amazed that some unregistered individuals still stockpile waste tires, or charge for disposal and then illegally dispose of them,” said Pins. Businesses or individuals using a non-registered waste tire hauler can be subject to fines and penalties. If DNR finds improperly disposed tires, the business may have to clean them up.

Levetzow recommends Iowa residents leave old tires with their tire dealer. “The disposal fee is usually quite small—less than \$5. Don’t take a problem home with you. Your tire dealer can dispose of it through the registered network ensuring it will be recycled or landfilled,” he said.

Iowans can contact DNR for more information on proper [waste tire management](#). Or check the website for a list of [registered waste tire haulers](#) and processors. Call the local [DNR field office](#) to report improper management or disposal. For more information reach out to Mel Pins, Land Quality Bureau, Iowa DNR at 515-729-4616 or [mel.pins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:mel.pins@dnr.iowa.gov).

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242**  
or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR’s website at [www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions](http://www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions).

### Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

### Black Hawk County

Chad Even

Pay 2020 and 2021 compliance fees and pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

### Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 60 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

### Kossuth County

Shane and Michelle Larsen

Submit a complete Iowa Phosphorus Index manure management plan (MMP); pay 2021 MMP fees; and pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

### Sac County

Alberto Tello Castaneda

Submit a complete original manure management plan; submit filing fee, indemnity fee, and compliance fee; and pay a \$3,000 administrative penalty.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525**  
or [Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or [Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov) for construction permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and air quality. DNR's permitting staff review each permit application to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality requirements. We encourage public comments on draft permits, providing help on how to [make effective comments](#). Submit written comments to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. DNR considers public comments before finalizing the permits.

### Title V Operating Permits

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at [www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

#### Buena Vista County

Valero Albert City Plant – 2356 510th St., Albert City.

The application was submitted to operate their existing industrial organic chemicals, NEC facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 20.

#### Hamilton County

Van Diest Supply Company – 1434 220th St., Webster City.

The application was submitted to operation their existing pesticides and agricultural chemicals, NEC facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 20.

### Construction Permits

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modify existing sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch](http://www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch) OR through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

#### Muscatine County

Grain Processing Corporation – 1600 Oregon St., Muscatine.

Project No. 21-101, Modification of operations located in the corn germ expeller building for the installation of new regenerative thermal oxidizer with duct washing system and cyclonic separator to reduce volatile organic compounds emissions. The public comment period ends Nov. 20.



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