Prevention of Illegal Dumping

BLM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL.

What should you report?

To the extent possible, be able to answer these questions when reporting an incident of illegal dumping:

- What is in the dump?
- Who did the dumping?
- Did the suspect have any tools?
- What type of vehicle was the suspect driving?
- How many persons were involved?
- Where did the dumping occur?
- What was the date of the incident?
- What was the time of the incident?
- Did you take any photographs?

Be a good witness! Follow this advice:

- Remain calm
- Be observant
- Maintain a low profile: Do not contact the dumper yourself
- Take notes

What Is Illegal Dumping?

Illegal dumping on public lands is a long-standing problem for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Illegal dumping mainly involves the dumping of solid waste such as appliances, yard wastes, household trash, vehicles, furniture, construction debris, and household hazardous waste. Illegal dumping poses a tempting opportunity to dispose of hazardous waste in violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Sites used for illegal dumping vary, but may include abandoned structures and infrequently used railroads or roadways. Because of their accessibility and poor lighting, areas along rural roads and railways are particularly vulnerable.

If not addressed, illegal dumping often attracts more waste, potentially including hazardous materials such as asbestos, household chemicals and paints, automotive fluids, and commercial or industrial products.

Additional Consequences of Illegal Dumping

The health risks associated with illegal dumping are significant. Areas used for illegal dumping may be easily accessible to the public—especially children—who are vulnerable to the physical hazards posed by wastes. In addition, rodents, insects, and other vermin attracted to dumping sites may pose health risks.

On public lands, open burning at dumping sites can cause wildfires and severe erosion as fire burns away vegetation. Dumping activities can have a negative effect on wildlife and plants. In addition, runoff from dumping sites that contain chemicals may contaminate wells and surface water used as sources of drinking water.

Areas affected by illegal dumping become unattractive to visitors and may reduce the value of adjacent private property.

Remedies for Illegal Dumping

BLM Law Enforcement personnel can investigate citizens' complaints about illegal dumping and seek to identify those responsible for the illegal activities. BLM Law Enforcement Officers may obtain voluntary compliance with clean-up orders or, when necessary, may take civil or criminal enforcement action after those responsible are identified for illegally dumping on public lands.

Alternatives to Illegal Dumping

When required or appropriate, you can participate in community recycling programs. For proper disposal of yard wastes, furniture, and appliances, auto parts, tires, and concrete contact your County waste service management office for bulk trash service or contact your local municipal landfill. For household hazardous wastes such as batteries, oil, paint, and other products, contact your County waste service management office for special collection times.

What Can You Do To Help?

You have the opportunity to get involved as a volunteer. Many local BLM offices organize events to clean up trash on public lands.

Community groups can assist in clean-up activities on public lands and improve the physical appearance of vulnerable areas. Such beautification efforts can deter potential illegal dumpers. Individuals should adhere to the waste management regulations of their State and local governments. Report all illegal dumping on public lands to your local BLM Ranger or the sheriff's department by dialing the appropriate non-emergency number.

Report Illegal Dumping Sites to the Following BLM State Offices:

ALASKA
222 W. Seventh Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99513
907-271-5960
www.blm.gov/ak

ARIZONA
One N. Central Avenue
Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-417-9200
www.blm.gov/az

CALIFORNIA
2800 Cottage Way
Suite W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-978-4400
www.blm.gov/ca

COLORADO
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215
303-239-3600
www.blm.gov/co

EASTERN STATES
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153
703-440-1600
www.blm.gov/es

IDAHO
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83709
208-373-4000
www.blm.gov/id

MONTANA
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101
406-896-5000
www.blm.gov/mt

NEVADA
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502
775-861-6400
www.blm.gov/nv

NEW MEXICO
1474 Rodeo Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-438-7400
www.blm.gov/nm

OREGON
333 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
503-808-6002
www.blm.gov/or

UTAH
440 West 200 South
Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801-539-4001
www.blm.gov/ut

WYOMING
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-775-6256
www.blm.gov/wy

BLM Headquarters
Washington, DC
Solid Waste–Illegal
Dumps Lead
202-452-5123
www.blm.gov/hazmat

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