Potential Hazards

The most significant hazard associated with storing used and waste tires outdoors is the potential for fire. These fires produce a lot of smoke which contain toxic materials and are difficult to extinguish. Tire piles also provide a space for disease vectors, such as mosquitoes and flies, to reproduce. To reduce the risk of potential hazards, follow the tire storage requirements listed on this pamphlet.

Contacts for Further Information about the Waste Tire Regulations

Solid Waste Inspections and Compliance Unit
1110 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-4673
(800) 234-5677 Ext: 771-4673
(602) 771-4829 (Hearing impaired)
www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/solid/tires.html
What are the Registration Requirements?

A site that stores 100 or more used/waste tires *outdoors shall register with ADEQ. An initial fee of $500 is required with a new site or facility registration and a $75 registration fee will be invoiced annually.

* A.A.C. R18-13-1212(C)(2) defines outdoors as other than inside a building with a weatherproof roof.

What is a Used Tire?

A.A.C. R18-13-1212 (C)(1) defines a used tire as any tire which has been used for more than one day on a motor vehicle.

What is a Waste Tire?

A.R.S. § 44-1301(4) defines a waste tire as a motor vehicle tire that is no longer suitable for its original intended purpose because of wear, damage or defect.

What are the Tire Storage Requirements?

A.R.S. § 44-1304.01 requires the following at sites where 100 or more used tires are stored outdoors:

- Smoking shall not be allowed within 50 feet of the tire piles (“no smoking” signs shall be posted).
- 20 foot access route shall be within 150 feet of the pile to allow for fire control apparatus. This access route shall be free of rubbish or other materials.
- Maximum height of tire piles is 20 feet.
- Tires shall be a minimum of 3 feet from the property line. If tires are stored within 3-10 feet of the property line, the tire pile shall not exceed 6 feet in height.
- Tire piles shall not exceed a maximum grid system unit of 50 feet by 150 feet.
- Place class “2A-10BC” type fire extinguishers 75 feet travel distance from any point of a tire pile.

Methods of Disposal

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1304(D), the following are permissible methods of waste tire disposal:

- Retreading or recapping;
- Constructing collision barriers;
- Controlling soil erosion or for flood control only if used in accordance with approved engineering practices;
- Chopping or shredding for use as waste tire daily cover at a solid waste landfill;
- Grinding for use in asphalt and as a raw material for other products;
- Sludge composting;
- Using as playground equipment;
- Incineration or using as a fuel or pyrolysis if permitted by laws, regulations, or ordinances related to burning or fuel;
- Hauling to out-of-state collection or processing sites;
- Tire monofills, if tires are chopped or shredded;
- For use in building construction in accordance with applicable city, town, and county building codes; and
- Agricultural purposes such as bumpers on agricultural equipment or as ballast to maintain covers at an agricultural site.