

## Tires

May, 2006

One junk item that has always been a thorn in everyone's side (including us at the Transfer Station) is old tires. Everyone knows of piles of tires scattered all over the place. They show up in ditches, are piled behind all sorts of businesses, litter farms, and collect in your garage and basement. Everyone wants to use tires but no one wants to be responsible for proper disposal of them.

For many years it has been illegal to burn tires for ANY purpose or in ANY location outside certain authorized plants with pollution control systems. We all know how much black residue is emitted when tires are burnt and can understand how this isn't good for the air or anything's lungs.

In the past there have been occasional tire amnesty days. This allowed people to bring in tires to either the Transfer Station or to other town sites that were set up. The tires were taken at no charge and were properly disposed of by shredding and re-use or as fuel in electric generating plants and cement plants that have scrubbers to clean the emissions. But there will be no more of these days as this Dept. of Natural Resources program has ended.

One purpose was to help get rid of the backlog of old tires that had collected for decades, which it did help to do. But the MAIN purpose was to educate people to the need to properly dispose of tires. So the program was approved by the Legislature for only a few years and then phased out. It was assumed that people would realize the value of recycling/re-use and would then be willing to properly dispose of tires as they were generated.

It seems few people have learned this as now tires are piling up again. People frequently ask when there will be more tire amnesties.....and the answer is there won't be. People need to realize it is THEIR responsibility to properly take care of THEIR own tires. And, the Transfer Station can help.

The best way to get rid of old tires is to pay the \$2.00 or so charge at the local tire store when you buy new tires. They always ask if you want the tires or want the store to dispose of the tires. Most all stores have proper disposal means and the \$2.00 or so covers the cost of a company to pick up the tire. This is the easiest way and I'm sure most people take advantage of this.

Still, tires seem to collect anyway, especially on farms and at businesses. So at the Transfer Station we will accept any used tire. We have a small storage area and a company comes approximately monthly to pick up the tires we have collected. Again, the law bans the placement of tires in landfills unless very specific conditions are met.

We do charge for this service in order to keep from being inundated with tires. Disposal would then be prohibitively expensive. So the tires are charged at \$2.00 for car/light pick up, \$5.00 for truck tires, and \$20.00 for tractor size tires. Large construction equipment type tires can possibly be taken if arrangements are made in advance at a fee to be determined based on the size.

By recycling tires, energy is saved. The landscape looks much more aesthetically pleasing. Breeding places for mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus and just be general nuisances are eliminated. All this improves our living conditions and thus improves our lives.

If you have any questions regarding tire recycling, contact the Transfer Station for guidance.