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## Mosquito Control and Storage of Scrap Tires

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Mosquitoes are a problem throughout Ohio. At least 62 different species of mosquitoes are found in the state. Mosquitoes interfere with work and leisure activities due to the annoyance of their bites and irritating reaction that follows. Most importantly, they can transmit diseases such as La Crosse, St. Louis, Eastern Equine, and West Nile Virus encephalitis. Ohio regulations now include requirements to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in scrap tires.

### **PURPOSE**

This educational guideline addresses property owner and facility owner and operator responsibilities for mosquito control in Ohio and is intended to guide readers through some of the major requirements of the scrap tire rules. However, it is only a guide and the appropriate sections of the Ohio Administrative Code should be read in their entirety.

Effective mosquito control requires a well-planned program and the cooperation of homeowners, industry, and local and state governments each doing their part to reduce mosquito nuisances in their area. Water management is essential to the effective control of mosquito breeding. Eggs do not hatch unless they are on or in water. The first control measure is to prevent the buildup of standing water in tires. Scrap tires stored outside are of particular concern because the rain water that accumulates in the scrap tires provides an ideal breeding place for mosquitoes which carry many diseases.

Ohio law regulates scrap tire collection, storage, recovery and disposal facilities and scrap tire transporters. Ohio EPA regulations are designed to reduce the potential for mosquitoes to breed in scrap tires, whether the tires are located at a regulated facility or stored by individual property owners. In all cases, the facility owner or operator or property owner has a responsibility to control mosquito breeding in the tires by keeping the tires dry and appropriately stacked, or by using an insecticide or larvicide registered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture for use in Ohio, as

necessary. This fact sheet was prepared to provide information on mosquito control methods for scrap tires.

### **APPLICABLE RULES/STATUTES**

Ohio Revised Code 3734  
Ohio Administrative Code 3745-27-56  
Ohio Administrative Code 3745-27-60  
Ohio Administrative Code 3745-27-65

### **HOW DO I KEEP SCRAP TIRES DRY?**

There are several ways to keep scrap tires dry or otherwise prevent water buildup in the tires so treatment with an insecticide or larvicide is not necessary.

- 1) Store all tires indoors or in closed containers.
- 2) Cover the scrap tires with a tarp or heavy plastic sheeting to prevent water from collecting in the tires.
- 3) Provide drainage by boring, drilling, cutting, or punching holes in the tires. Prevent drainage hole blockage by leaves or other debris.
- 4) Chop, cut, or shred the tires small enough so that the pieces will not hold water.
- 5) Other methods that can be shown to keep out water can be approved by

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either Ohio EPA or the local health department.

## **IS BALING OF TIRES AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING?**

No. Tire bales may hold water, even when properly constructed, and allow mosquitoes to breed. Frequent inspections and treatments are needed.

## **TREATING SCRAP TIRES WITH A LARVICIDE OR INSECTICIDE**

The property owner or facility owner or operator may choose to hire a pesticide applicator licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture who is authorized to apply general use or restricted use larvicides or insecticides. If the scrap tire facility operator or property owner wants to apply the larvicide or pesticide, then a general use larvicide/pesticide must be used. The Ohio Department of Health, (614) 752-1029, can provide a list of registered larvicides/insecticides that have a lower persistence and toxicity to the applicator and to the environment, if used according to the label specifications.

## **GENERAL INSECTICIDE AND LARVICIDE PRECAUTIONS**

The Ohio Department of Health recommends the following before using an insecticide or larvicide:

- Read the label carefully and follow the directions on the insecticide/larvicide container label.
- Store insecticides/larvicides in plainly labeled containers, safely away from livestock, pets and children. Also, store them in a separate area where they will not contaminate food or feed.
- Avoid repeated and prolonged skin contact with insecticides/larvicides, and keep out of eyes, nose and mouth. If insecticides/larvicides do get on clothing

or on skin, remove contaminated clothing at once and wash skin and clothing thoroughly.

- Don't contaminate wells, ponds or streams when cleaning spray equipment.
- Wash your hands and face with soap and water immediately after applying an insecticide/larvicide and before eating, drinking or smoking.

## **LARVICIDE OR INSECTICIDE CONTAINER DISPOSAL**

Following are some recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health that you should consider when disposing of containers:

- Triple rinse all containers (the liquid may be placed in the sanitary sewer, if acceptable).
- Never bury or burn empty larvicide or insecticide containers or other wastes.
- Whenever possible, buy insecticides in re-useable containers, or disposable containers that dissolve in the tank.
- Most empty insecticide containers can be disposed of at a solid waste landfill provided that they have been triple-rinsed, and punctured or crushed in the case of drums or cans.

## **RISKS TO THE APPLICATOR AND TO PERSONNEL AFTER APPLICATION**

People applying a general use insecticide or larvicide should wear rubber gloves or other non-absorbent gloves, eye protection, and a filter mask. Other protective clothing may be specified on the product label. (A licensed applicator will have the appropriate equipment, apparel and training for this operation.) The protection is designed to prevent particulate matter and aerosols from getting into the eyes or lungs and to reduce skin exposure to

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insecticides. Because registered chemicals on the list available from the Ohio Department of Agriculture have a relatively low persistence and toxicity, no significant threat to non-target species is expected if applied according to label specifications. Personnel handling tires after an insecticide/larvicide application should wear non-absorbent gloves.

**For more information regarding the use of a particular insecticide or larvicide, please contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6987.**

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

Northeast District Office DSIWM Supervisor at  
Twinsburg: 330-963-1200

Northwest District Office DSIWM Supervisor at  
Bowling Green: 419-352-8461

Central District Office DSIWM Supervisor at  
Columbus: 614-728-3778

Southeast District Office DSIWM Supervisor at  
Logan: 740-385-8501

Southwest District Office DSIWM Supervisor at  
Dayton: 937-285-6357

Central Office-Scrap Tire Unit at Columbus:  
614-644-2621

## **DISCLAIMER**

The procedures set out in this document are intended solely for guidance. The procedures are not intended and cannot be relied upon to create rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against Ohio EPA. While this guidance document is not legally binding, all statutes and rules referenced herein are binding and enforceable. Ohio EPA reserves the rights to vary this guidance or to change it at any time without public notice and also reserves the right to deviate from this guidance on a case-by-case basis.