

SCC Health to Host Tire Round-Up July 26

July 7, 2014

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St. Charles County, Missouri – Missouri residents generate approximately five million scrap tires each year, and most dispose of them in a proper manner. However — in cases where they aren't — scrap tires can become threats to public health and eyesores that pollute the natural beauty of our community.

To present a free and convenient way to recycle unwanted tires that might otherwise end up in abandoned lots or area creeks, the Division of Environmental Health and Protection will host a **Tire Round-Up** from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on Saturday, July 26. St. Charles County residents may bring up to ten (10) tires per household to **Recycle Works Central** (60 Triad South in St. Charles) or **Recycle Works West** (2110 East Pitman Ave., in Wentzville) as part of this partnership with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Tires may be of any size and in any condition, but foam-filled tires cannot be accepted. For more information on this one-time program, please call 636.949.1800.

With increased legislation and cost, many turn to illegal dumping as a means for disposing their scrap tire stockpile — which can cause many long-term problems. Tire piles serve as a breeding ground for insects and rodents like mosquitoes and rats, which leads to possible disease transmission. Fires at tire dumps are extremely hot, can smolder for days or even years, and can release hazardous substances into the air. In addition, illegally dumped tires can release hazardous material into the land and water or can cause pollution and erosion problems along our area waterways.

When recycled through controlled collections, scrap tires can be put to hundreds of innovative applications. Civil engineers use shredded tires as fill material for construction projects and as insulation to prevent potholes or other road surface damage. Parks and recreation departments apply the rubber shreds to playground surfaces or running paths, and sports teams include the material in artificial grass playing fields. Workers can install whole tires as barriers and bumpers for vehicles and boats or employ them as erosion control. Also, because of their high heating value, many utility plants and commercial operations use tires as an alternative fuel source in a safe, controlled manner.

The Division of Environmental Health and Protection strongly supports the mantra **Reduce, Re-Use and Recycle**. To further this, the division accepts a wide variety of materials at its Recycle Works locations and accepts most items at little or no cost. For a complete list of items accepted and recycling fees charged, or for information on preparing material for recycling, please visit <http://health.sccmo.org> or call 636.949.1800.

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