



Tires

Tires are considered a *problem waste* as there are very limited options for managing them once disposed of. They are difficult for landfills as they are known to “float” to the surface no matter how tightly compacted they are. They cannot be readily processed into their component materials making traditional recycling difficult. In New Mexico, the primary market for scrap tires involves baling them for use in construction projects. NMED has long promoted this practice and supports it through a well funded grant program (see *Funding Opportunities*.) Other markets accessible to NM shred tires for use in landscaping applications and as an additive to asphalt. While there are no shredding operations within New Mexico, several exist in close proximity.



Collection and Storage. Tires are regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department’s Solid Waste Bureau. The Bureau has developed and adopted rules specific to the collection, transportation, storage and use of scrap tires which are codified as 20 NMAC 9.20 and are referred to as the *Recycling, Illegal Dumping and Scrap Tire Management Rules*. The text can be found at http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/documents/RIDSTMR_2007.pdf These regulations are designed to protect the public and the environment from the risks posed by the improper management of scrap tires as well as mechanisms which enable the state to ensure they are responsibly managed and to provide for data collection to document the volume of tires generated in New Mexico.

Questions and Guidance. As part of its scrap tire management program, NMED employs a full time *Scrap Tire Manager*, Toni Duggan. Ms. Duggan has a wealth of knowledge related to scrap tires as well as close understanding of the rules governing scrap tires in NM. She can be reached at 505-827-0559 or by email at toni.duggan@state.nm.us.

Other Tire Resources.

EPA Scrap Tire Management information, <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/tires/index.htm>

Scrap Tire Trade Publication, <http://www.scraptirenews.com/>

Rubber Manufacturer’s Association, http://www.rma.org/scrap_tires/

Texas DOT Tire Bale Project