



# SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AREAS

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# RMA Scrap Tire Activities

- Began in 1990
- Scrap Tire Management Council = RMA
- Sponsored by all RMA tire manufacturers
- Work with governments, scrap tire users, NGO's, general public to accomplish mission



# RMA Tire Company Members





# Scrap Tires in Rural Areas

- Small-scale generation of scrap tires
  - Less frequent collection service due to rate of generation & distance to be traveled
  - Insufficient numbers for +1 viable processor
  - Insufficient numbers for large-scale markets
  - Ample space to dump
  - Limited enforcement capabilities



# Scrap Tires in Rural Areas

- Scrap tires generated in urban areas: stored (stockpiled) in rural area
- Majority of large stockpiles in rural areas
- Mosquito infestation a major concern
- In case of fire, counties lack resources to fight fires
  - Volunteer fire departments
  - Limited budgets
  - Lack of specialized training



# Scrap Tires in Rural Areas

- Targets for “Dreamers & Schemers”
  - Approach county with “win-win” opportunity
  - Promise jobs and tax revenue
  - Ask for IDB/donation of land or tax relief
  - Claim their technology can “solve the problem”
    - Often questionable technology
    - Claim that there is a major scrap tire crisis
    - Has spread sheets to show their projections



# Scrap Tires in Rural Areas

- Common “Dreamers & Schemers”  
Approaches to Managing Scrap Tires:
  - Pyrolyzing tires: turning garbage into oil
  - Tire processors/balers: We can use every tire...
  - Big numbers: We will process 10 million...
- All we need is....



# Scrap Tires in Rural Areas

- Targets for “Dreamers & Schemers”
  - Often targeted due to perceived lack of knowledge of situation
  - County recycling coordinator often not well versed in scrap tire technologies
  - Perceived easier to exert political pressure
- Results in new piles being formed & loss of funds



# Possible Solutions

- If scrap tires are collected at landfills, use on-site
  - Portable shredders
  - 5 possible applications at landfills
  - Can save resources/reduce costs
- Last resort: rough shred and landfill (where allowed)



## Impacts of Landfilling Scrap Tires

- No environmental issues shreds tires (+)
- Least cost disposal option (+)
- Gets rid of the problem (+)
- No end use market can compete (-)
- Disallows market development (-)



# Possible Solutions

- Develop local collection capacity (DPW)
  - Pick up dumped tires/possible drop off site
  - Needs critical mass for applications
  - Use tires in road construction
    - Frost protection
    - Side slope stabilizers (whole tires)
    - Lightweight backfill
    - Embankment fill



# Civil Engineering Applications

- Tire Bales
  - Began in mid 1980's
  - Used in Southwest USA (NM/TX)
- Tire baling is not recycling: not good or bad: it's a form of tire processing
- Regulatory agencies looking for "engineered" projects (P.E. stamp)



# Possible Solutions

- Buy recycled products
  - Mulch
  - Playground cover
  - Septic field drainage medium
- Do regional projects
  - Gains economy of scale



## If Dumping is a Problem

- Alert law enforcement officials
- Contact state regulatory agency
- Have amnesty days
- Use local tires for local projects: publicize project
- Talk to retailers



# Ag, Mining and Off Road Tires

- Only 2 states regulate these tires (AZ, MN)
- Difficult to process; do not fit into standard tire shredding equipment
- Need hydraulic shears to “snip”
- Have more steel than some truck tires
- Mining tires are supposed to be disposed on public lands



# Ag, Mining and Off Road Tires

- If possible to store safely & can find portable system to process, shreds can then be used as TDA
- Tub grinders generate very rough shreds with exposed steel
- Mining tires typically used for livestock feeders or wind-breaks



# Recap

- Piles/dumping of tires not generally from local sources
- Dumping can be local problems if no enforcement or limited & costly disposal options
- Solutions dependent upon system of disposal & resources available



# Recap

- Think about allowing storage and use of tires at landfills
- Think about small-scale projects
- Think about regional projects
- Consider a mobile shredder
- Talk to DPW about end uses
- Educate public about dangers of dumping



# Resources

- State regulatory agency
- Rubber Manufacturers Association
- EPA Region 5 Anti-dumping booklet & Stockpile abatement information
- EPA Resource Conservation Challenge
- Small Business Administration



## Resources

- On RMA/Scrap Tire web site
  - Comprehensive ‘matrix’ of each state’s scrap tire program
  - Description of markets for scrap tires
  - Leachate data
  - Prevention/fighting of scrap tire fires
  - Playground safety information



# RMA Resources

- Training Courses
  - Tire shreds used in landfill construction
  - Tire shreds used in road construction
  - Use of TDF
  - Scrap tire fire prevention/fire fighting tactics
  - RMA presence at public hearings/meetings



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