

# **Building a Successful Illegal Dumping Prevention/Enforcement Program**

MDEQ's Solid Waste  
Enforcement Officer Training  
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# Building a Successful Illegal Dumping Prevention/Enforcement Program



# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Are Needed Because:

- Illegal dumping and Litter repel economic development, investment, and location of businesses;
- Illegal dumping and Litter decreases property values and increases decay;
- Decreased tourism in certain communities due to litter and urban blight;

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Are Needed Because:

- Decline in revenue for littered business districts;
- Increasing costs for cleanup programs requires additional financial resources taken from revenues received by businesses, local governments, taxpayers, and property owners.

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Are Needed Because:

- Related crime activities are more likely to occur in blighted areas (drug deals, prostitution, gang violence, loitering, vandalism, etc.)
- Litter & illegal dumping are often committed by those wanted for more serious crimes
- Littered areas indicate lack of concern and loss of local pride in obeying the law

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Are Needed Because:

- Illegal Dumping can interfere with proper drainage and contribute to flooding;
- Open burning at dumpsites can cause uncontrolled fires damaging forests and private properties;
- Illegal dumping of some wastes can release contaminants into the air and water (used oil, PCB's, mercury, asbestos, CFC's, etc.)

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Are Needed Because:

- Illegal dumping of some wastes can result in increased vector breeding (mosquitoes, rats)
- Illegal dumping can have a negative impact on wildlife and aquatic species;
- Illegal dumping creates safety hazards for children and adults;

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Support from Local Governing Authorities
  - Proper solid waste management system and services;
  - Commitment of resources to prevention and enforcement;
  - Political “will” to carry out both prevention and enforcement activities; and
  - Adoption of Local Ordinances and laws, where appropriate.



# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Well-trained local enforcement personnel;
  - Knowledge of state solid waste laws and regulations;
  - Knowledge of local solid waste system and options for waste management;
  - Knowledge of the demographic, geographic and topographic characteristics of the county
  - A passion for keeping the community clean and helping educate the local citizenry.

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Partnerships with Other Local Organizations
  - Law Enforcement Agencies, Code Enforcement Agencies, Public Works Departments;
  - Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Assoc.
  - Local Businesses and Industries;
  - Local Solid Waste and Recycling Companies;
  - Farming Organizations, Extension Service, etc
  - Forestry Groups, Timber Companies, etc.
  - Hunting Clubs;

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Partnerships with Other Local Organizations
  - Garden Clubs, KMB Affiliates, Beautification Committees;
  - Rotary, Civitan, and Other Civic Clubs;
  - Local Green Organizations, (Gaining Ground, Sierra Club, etc);
  - Youth Organizations - Scout Troops, 4H, Youth Leadership Councils, School Groups, etc.

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Partnerships with Other State Organizations
  - MDEQ (Compliance, Field, Grants, ER Staff);
  - MDOT (Litter Coordinators);
  - Mississippi Forestry Commission;
  - Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks;
  - Mississippi Wildlife Federation (Adopt a Stream)
  - Keep Mississippi Beautiful;
  - SWANA/Miss. Recycling Coalition, etc.

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Public information and outreach efforts to prevent and advise on illegal dumping;
  - Electronic Media – web site, social media, etc.
  - Traditional Media – radio, print, television, billboards, etc.
  - Hard Copy Pamphlets and Brochures
  - School/Youth Outreach Programs
  - Festivals, Events, Clean Up Days, HHW Days, etc.
  - Means of Public Contact for questions, complaints, and comments.

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- What is the Message?
  - How and where can I dispose of my wastes legally and properly?
  - How and where can I reduce and recycle wastes?
  - What are the results of illegal disposal? – (both economic and environmental)
  - What are the consequences for illegal disposal? (potential penalties, etc.)
  - If I see problems in my community with improper waste disposal what do I do about it?

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Sound Investigation and Enforcement Process
  - Local process for public to file complaints
    - Telephone
    - Internet/Email
    - By Mail
    - Anonymous Filings
  - Local process for investigating complaints and complaint sites;
  - Local ordinance where possible to specifically address community standards and desires;

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- What Should Your Ordinance Include?
  - Definition of acceptable waste management and disposal;
  - Definition of a litter or illegal dumping violation;
  - Process for Enforcement;
  - Penalties for Violations;
  - Other special needs – open burning requirements, animal waste issues (poultry wastes, deer carcasses etc), other special wastes.



# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Sound Investigation and Enforcement Process
  - Local routine monitoring of
    - Complaint sites and known dump sites,
    - Derelict Properties
    - Known sources of illegal dumping
    - Local landfills, solid waste sites and the roads and areas around those sites;
    - Large demolition projects
    - Scrap yards, junk yards, and other similar places; and
    - Other suspect sites;

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Sound Investigation and Enforcement Process
  - Local process for notifying responsible parties of violations and the need for corrective actions;
  - Officer should be equipped with enforcement powers or have a close working relationship with those agencies who do;
  - Local process for prosecuting persons who fail to comply with the law.

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Sound Investigation and Enforcement Process
  - Proper referral when the matter falls into the jurisdiction of another agency or office.
    - MDEQ Permitted Facilities/Jurisdictional Issues
    - Civil vs. Criminal matters
    - Issues where property access issues exist;
    - Highly Sensitive Local Matters
    - Emergency Conditions

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- A Clean Up Program to Complement the Prevention and Enforcement Efforts;
  - Responsible Party Clean-Up;
  - Use of Litter Crews (employees, community volunteers, prison labor, community service work, “adoption” programs, etc.)
  - Statutory Process to clean up private properties;
  - Use of Grant Resources (MDEQ SWAG and Tire Funds, KMB Litter Trailer, etc)

# Successful Local Illegal Dumping Programs Include:

- Measurement and Reporting
  - Track Complaints
  - Track Enforcement Actions
  - Track Litter through litter indexing and illegal dumping through illegal dumping inventories
  - Track Funds Spent on Clean-Up
  - Monitor MDEQ's Reports on Local Disposal Figures
  - Report Back to Your Local Governing Body on Your Successes and Needs

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