

ILLEGAL DUMPING - COORDINATION AND CLEANUP

WHAT

Multiple County departments are responsible for the cleanup of thousands of tons of illegally dumped waste in the unincorporated areas every year. Illegal dumping pollutes our environment and water, drives down property values, and costs county taxpayers for cleanup. In addition to expediting our current ongoing cleanup efforts, illegal dumping presents an opportunity to incorporate countywide coordinated public outreach to inform the public about proper disposal, and educate community members to report illegal dumping, as well as develop effective, comprehensive illegal dumping prevention strategies.

WHO

Typical offenders of illegally dumped waste:

- Public tossing or allowing waste to escape vehicles
- Residents avoiding disposal fees
- Residents hiring an unlicensed hauler
- Residents setting out Bulky Waste Pickup items more than 24 hours before appointment
- Unlicensed haulers posing as legitimate business
- Public/businesses illegally dump in known/common illegal dumping sites
- Businesses avoiding regulation/disposal fees
- Unhoused encampment debris

HOW ILLEGAL DUMPING IS CLEANED UP

Reported Illegal Dumping

Sacramento County 3-1-1 Connect takes unincorporated area illegal dumping reports and forwards the reported information to the appropriate department for cleanup.

Code Enforcement evaluates all illegal dumping reports for actionable information, investigates, issues an administrative penalty or infraction if it is appropriate, and recommends the reward to those eligible to DWMR for reward payment.

Cleanup Response

EMD is the authority for enforcing hazardous waste control law in Sacramento County and coordinates with stakeholders to ensure hazardous waste is cleaned up and disposed of properly. The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and City of Sacramento Fire Department Hazardous Material Response Teams will assist our jurisdiction requests to identify potentially unknown hazardous waste.

The County department or entity that responds to illegal dumping is determined by the size and type of waste and the location of where waste is dumped:

- On unincorporated County public right of way, streets, and sidewalks
- On waterways, creeks, drainage ditches in unincorporated County
- Homeless encampments in unincorporated County public right of way
- Sacramento County Regional Parks (non-waterways)
- Non-County Agencies – Highway/freeway/overpasses; Railway lines/easements; Waterways

Illegal Dumping Location: On unincorporated public right of way, streets and sidewalks.

Code Enforcement – Serviced in coordination with a towing company

- Waste Type:
 - Abandoned vehicles.
 - Boats larger than 14 feet with/without a trailer.

DWMM – Mechanically serviced with a knuckle boom truck or claw loader.

- Waste Type:
 - Truck load sized piles of multiple items in one location that are garbage-bag-sized or larger.
 - Boats 14 feet and smaller, without a trailer, and motor is dry of fluids.

DOT - Serviced by a single employee or with hand crews in coordination with Probation and Sheriff's Adult Work Project crew and Juvenile Work Project crew.

- Waste Type:
 - Small, loose, scattered litter that can fit inside a garbage bag and lifted by a person.
 - Hazardous Waste - DOT staff trained to collect small amounts (5 gal); contract used for larger amounts.
 - Medical/biohazardous waste collected by contractor

Illegal Dumping Location: On waterways, creeks, drainage ditches in unincorporated areas

DWR - Serviced by hand or with equipment.

- Waste Type:
 - Small, loose, scattered litter that can fit inside a garbage bag and lifted by a person.
 - Truck load sized piles of multiple items in one location that are garbage-bag-sized or larger.
 - Hazardous Waste – DWR staff trained to collect small amounts (5 gal); contract for larger amounts
 - Medical/biohazardous waste by contractor

Illegal Dumping Location: Homeless encampments in unincorporated public areas

DHSH – Serviced in coordination with a biohazard remediation contract, Homeless Outreach Team in coordination with the Sheriff's Adult Work Project crew and Juvenile Work Project crew, DWMM operations and staff or Regional Parks staff.

- Waste Type:
 - Items for removal from vacated or active homeless encampments
 - Hazardous Waste by contractor
 - Medical/biohazardous waste by contractor

Illegal Dumping Location: Sacramento County Regional Parks – not in waterways

Regional Parks – Serviced by a single employee or with hand crews in coordination with volunteer groups and contract vendors. For large material, may request DWMR equipment and operator staff.

- Waste Type:
 - Small, loose, scattered litter that can fit inside a garbage bag and lifted by a person.
 - Piles of trash or dumped items
 - Abandoned vehicles/boats by contractor
 - Hazardous Waste – PR Maintenance staff trained to collect small amounts
 - Medical/Biohazardous waste collected, but disposed of by contractor

Illegal Dumping Location: Highway, freeway lanes, under overpasses

Caltrans -Waste Type: Any sized items – litter, piles, abandoned vehicles and boats.

Illegal Dumping Location: Railroad lines and railroad easements of 25' to >400'

Sac RT - Waste Type: Any sized items – litter, piles, abandoned vehicles.

Union Pacific - Waste Type: Any sized items – litter, piles, abandoned vehicles.

BNSF Railway - Waste Type: Any sized items – litter, piles, abandoned vehicles.

Illegal Dumping Location: Waterways

Reclamation Districts - Waste Type: Litter, piles

CA Fish & Wildlife – Waste Type: Coordinates cleanup of hazardous waste

EDUCATION

The County's Illegal Dumping website (illegaldumping.sacounty.gov) educates and encourages the public to get involved in keeping their communities clean by reporting illegal dumping in the unincorporated area to Sacramento County 3-1-1 Connect. Those who report illegal dumping to 3-1-1 may be eligible for a \$1,000 reward if the tip leads to an administrative penalty, citation, or arrest.

QUARTERLY COUNTYWIDE COORDINATION MEETINGS

The County has started meeting with operational staff to coordinate issues associated with illegal dumping. The January 2025 meeting invited the following entities to participate:

- Sacramento County – 3-1-1, Code Enforcement, EMD, DA, DSHS, DOT, DWMR, DWR, Regional Parks, Sheriff
- Local jurisdictions – City of Sacramento, City of Elk Grove
- State agencies - Fish and Wildlife