



For Immediate Release:

August 27th, 2010

Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa, Inc.

Amite – Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Investigative Division is seeking information related to the Waste Oil Dumping Incident discovered on June 7th, 2010 at 1800 Palmetto Street just east of 1300 South Morrison Blvd., Hammond, LA.

On Monday, the 7th day of June 2010, at 2210hrs (10:10pm) Hammond Police was notified of an oil spill within the 1800 block of Palmetto street just east of 1300 South Morrison Blvd. According to the investigating officer, there was a significant amount of oil that was located in a ditch behind Supreme Autoplex. The appropriate city personnel were notified and the case was referred to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

A preliminary investigation has revealed that unknown person (s) intentionally disposed of several hundred gallons of used motor oil into this ditch. It is believed that an unknown type truck was used to transport the used motor oil to this location. The US EPA/LDEQ was responsible for the clean-up at 1800 Palmetto Street, Hammond Louisiana. LDEQ-CID has initiated a criminal investigation into this intentional violation of the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act. LDEQ Criminal Investigators are seeking information on the person or persons responsible for this environmental crime.

L.R.S. 30:2076.2B (2) Any person who knowingly introduces into public sewer systems or into public owned treatment works any pollutant or hazardous substance which such person knew or reasonably should have known could cause personal injury or property damage.

Penalties: Shall upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than five thousand dollars nor more than fifty thousand dollars per day of violation, or imprisoned for not more than three years, with or without hard labor, or both.

Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa urges the public or anyone having information related to this crime to come forward anonymously with their information. The public is urged to call Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa's anonymous tip line at 1-800-554-5245(JAIL). You will never be asked for your name and you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000 if your tip results in the arrest of the wanted person/persons.

For more information related to this case please contact **Investigator Keith Bates @ (225) 219-3942 or email Keith.Bates@la.gov**.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality- Criminal Investigation Division.