



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ Criminal Division makes arrests

BATON ROUGE –The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Criminal Investigation Division, with the assistance of the Morehouse Parish Sheriff’s office, made three arrests in Morehouse Parish last week. Randy L. Jones, 46; Otto McClinton Jr., 51; and Roy Lee Stokes, 54; all of Bastrop, were arrested for waste tire fraud, forgery, maintaining false public records and criminal conspiracy.

Jones, McClinton and Stokes are accused of participating in a scheme that netted Jones nearly \$5,000 from an area tire recycler. Jones and his alleged accomplices provided legitimate tire recyclers with forged documents so that the recycler could receive payments from the state’s waste tire fund. The recycler is an authorized business which processes waste tires and pays those who have legitimately brought tires for processing. In this case, it is alleged that Jones was forging documents to make it appear that he was bringing accepted tires to the processor, when in reality, he was not.

If convicted of waste tire fraud, the three each face a maximum fine of \$3,000 and up to 10 years in prison. The three face additional fines and penalties of a maximum of \$5,000 and 10 years per charge if convicted of charges of forgery, plus \$5,000 and a sentence of five years per charge for maintaining false public records.

“Criminal enforcement of waste tire fraud serves to ensure the integrity of the waste tire fund,” said Peter Ricca, DEQ CID chief. “The waste tire fund is designed to provide for the proper disposal of waste tires in our state, and LDEQ will vigorously investigate and support the prosecution of those who would undermine its effectiveness by fraudulent conduct.”

An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to area prosecutors to determine if formal charges are warranted.

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