



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ declares emergency to clean up drums

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality will be conducting an emergency removal concerning illegally dumped drums near a park in Baton Rouge. By declaring the emergency, DEQ will now hire a qualified contractor to remove and dispose of the drums properly.

Ten drums were dumped near Samuel D’Agostino Park. The contents are unknown, but some drums showed high levels of volatile organic compounds, which are compounds that have high enough vapor pressures under normal conditions to vaporize into the atmosphere. Some VOCs may have short-term or long-term adverse health effects. Other drums contain an acidic material.

“Because of the location and the possibility of children playing in the area, DEQ decided it was important to remove the containers as quickly as possible,” DEQ Secretary Harold Leggett said. “DEQ is not in the business of removing illegally dumped material, but this is an exception to that rule. We usually like to find the responsible party, have them pay for the clean up as well as face penalties and possible jail time.”

The department will hire a contractor to remove and dispose of the drums. The cost is estimated to be between \$8,000 and \$15,000. The drums should be removed from the area by Saturday.

Anyone who has information on the illegal dumping activity is encouraged to call, 225-219-3944.

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