



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

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Contact: Tim Beckstrom
Phone: 225-219-3967

Houma man arrested on multiple charges relating to the illegal disposal of waste tires

BATON ROUGE – A Terrebonne Parish man was arrested Thursday for illegal disposal of waste tires, felony criminal damage to property, and criminal trespassing. Criminal investigators with the Department of Environmental Quality obtained an arrest warrant for Lynn John Matherne, 47, on Thursday. Deputies with the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office conducted the arrest Thursday night.

According to the arrest warrant, Matherne allegedly disposed of hundreds of waste tires on his property located at 520 Maplewood Drive in Houma, Louisiana. The felony criminal damage to property and criminal trespassing allegations relate to Matherne's disposal of waste tires on the property of his neighbors. The processing and disposal of waste tires are activities regulated by DEQ.

"The accumulation of waste tires is an eyesore and can potentially affect human health by providing an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes and rodents. We remain vigilant in our goal of investigating and seeking prosecution for any illegal activity within the waste tire program," stated Vince Sagnibene, Undersecretary of DEQ.

The illegal disposal of waste tires carries a criminal penalty of \$25,000 per violation and imprisonment of not more than one year, or both. Felony criminal damage to property, where the property damage is more than \$500 but less than \$50,000 in value, carries a penalty of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than two years, or both. First offense criminal trespassing carries a criminal penalty of not less the \$100 or more than \$500 and imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

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

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