



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### Man arrested for illegally disposing of thousands of waste tires

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, along with the St. Tammany Sheriff's Office and Sun Police Department, arrested a man from the Village of Sun for felony and misdemeanor charges of illegal disposal of solid waste. Shelby Bush, 80, was illegally disposing of waste tires.

A DEQ inspector identified between 3,000-6,000 new waste tires on Bush's property. These new tires do not take into account tires Bush previously disposed on his property.

"I can't stress this enough, waste tires are a breeding ground for mosquitoes," said DEQ's Criminal Investigations Manager Peter Ricca. "We all know that West Nile has become a big issue in Louisiana each summer. Mosquitoes pose just one of the many problems that could stem from having thousands of tires improperly disposed of on this property. There are waste tire rules and regulations that must be followed."

Bush had a similar incident with waste tires in 1990. Despite repeated warning to remove the tires, Bush continued to dispose of them on his property. The tires eventually caught fire and burned for several weeks.

"While building the original case," Ricca said. "He disappeared to Texas and Louisiana officials were unable to locate him. He came back to St. Tammany Parish sometime earlier this year and resumed his illegal activities."

Ricca said Bush faces a fine of up to \$100,000 and 10 years in jail for charges in this case.

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