



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ, New Orleans crack down on illegal dumping

State and local authorities recently teamed up to issue a summons for illegal dumping along the Almonaster Corridor in New Orleans East. Christian Javier Flores was issued a summons and fined \$500. The truck he was driving, which is owned by TREECO, was impounded.

The event occurred on Monday while the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the New Orleans Police Department were surveying the area for illegal dumping. One of the DEQ inspectors saw Flores dump wood waste at an unpermitted location. The DEQ inspector contacted the NOPD officer who arrived at 8325 Almonaster Blvd. and issued the driver the summons to appear at a New Orleans Environmental Department Administration Hearing to answer to charges of illegal dumping.

At that point, the truck was towed, pending the outcome of the hearing.

“By working together, the city and state are going to make drivers, company owners and property owners think twice about illegally dumping,” said DEQ Assistant Secretary Harold Leggett, Ph. D. “The cooperation between state and city gives extra manpower and enforcement opportunities to better control illegal dumping. Impounding a vehicle and issuing a fine, like the New Orleans Police Department did during this episode, is certainly a deterrent to illegal activities.”

DEQ has also worked with the New Orleans Real Estate section to map out landowner information for the New Orleans East area.

A video taken in early December from New Orleans’ Almonaster area shows a truck illegally dumping solid waste on the side of a road. The DEQ, with the assistance of the Department of Justice and local authorities, is trying to identify the owner of the truck.

Depending on the type of waste and the amount, anyone who is arrested for illegal dumping could face a fine of up to \$1 million or the cost of any cleanup, may be fined up to \$100,000 per violation, which may be assessed for each day the violation continues, and a jail sentence of up to 10 years.

To see a recent video of someone illegally dumping, go to the DEQ web site at www.deq.louisiana.gov. To provide information concerning the video, or to report other incidences of illegal dumping, call 504-736-7704.

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