



# Waste Wise

Reduce ■ Reuse ■ Recycle

A Public Service Of Tillamook County Solid Waste • May 2018

## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY IN TILLAMOOK COUNTY

April 20, 2018 wasn't just any day for Tillamook County elementary students. In celebration of Earth Day, April 22, Tillamook County Solid Waste's Education and Outreach staff invited all County second graders to visit their local transfer stations. "This is the second year we've offered this formal tour opportunity," stated Sue Owens, organizer of the day. "but it's the first time schools took us up on our offer for each transfer station," she adds. This ended up with tours simultaneously at each transfer station.

Nestucca Valley Elementary's student council and the student body of Neskowin Valley schools were treated to a tour of Pacific City transfer station lead by Solid Waste Program Manager, David McCall, including a truck demonstration by Paul Carbaugh of Nestucca Valley Sanitary Service.

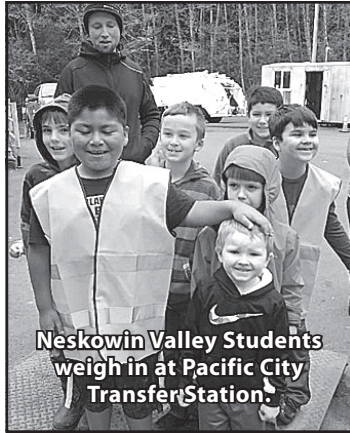
In North County, Fire Mountain School brought their students to visit the Manzanita transfer station where Executive Director, Karen Reddick-Yurka took them on a tour of the facility and Recology Western Oregon driver, Barry Wagler, was on hand to demonstrate the garbage truck.

Being the largest and most centrally located, the Tillamook Transfer Station, managed by Don G. Averill Recycling, was understandably the most popular for the trips with six classes making the rounds. Being led on tours by Aaron Averill and Tyann Walker, each tour lasted about an hour and students were shown in detail where their garbage goes after it leaves their house. Master Recycler Georgeanne Zedrick and Tillamook High School Transition students Alice Kimber, Kaja Smith, Ivan Magana, Lilly Webster, Messiah Tuiolemotu, Leyah Miller and Hazel Werner were also on hand to help students stay safe and learn. Transfer station staff members Skyler and Nanci and the rest of the employees were eager to step in to assist students as needed.

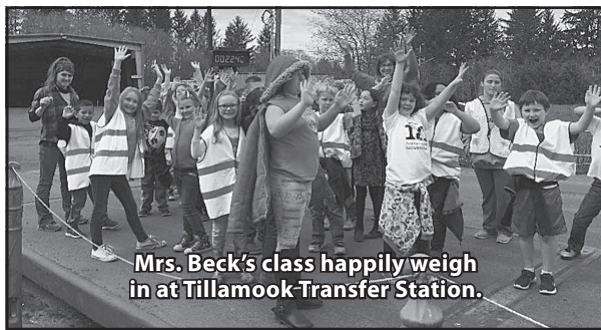
"Overall, it was apparent that the students had a good time and were amazed at what really happens at the transfer station," Owens added, "at our recent Hazardous Waste collection event, one of the students recognized me and had me explain some of the highlights to his dad. That made it even more rewarding." Owens plans to offer the same experience each year around Earth Day. Teachers who are interested in participating are encouraged to contact her at [sowens@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:sowens@co.tillamook.or.us).



Fire Mountain students do their weigh in at Manzanita Transfer Station.



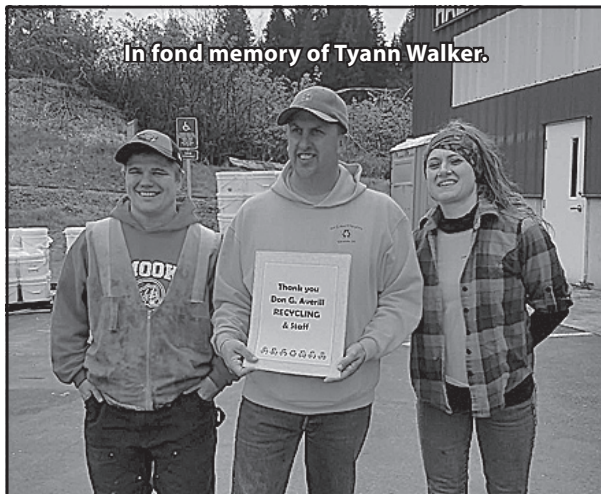
Neskowin Valley Students weigh in at Pacific City Transfer Station.



Mrs. Beck's class happily weigh in at Tillamook Transfer Station.



Ms. Weeks' class watch Ron and Rhonda Walker from City Sanitary Service as they talk about curbside recycling and demonstrate how a garbage truck works.



In fond memory of Tyann Walker.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE THE DANGEROUS PASSENGER

Most of us have some...lurking in our garages, under our sinks, or in our garden shed. The majority of us have innocently purchased, used and even keep these items in our homes. Yes, I'm talking about household hazardous materials. These materials are called hazardous for a reason! Few of the items we purchase to clear our drains, clean our counters, or wash our windows are environmentally, or people friendly! Alone, these agents pose their own individual hazards, but when we mix them, intentionally or otherwise, the dangers increase tremendously.

"When we are unloading items from vehicles at a household hazardous waste event," David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager states, "we see a lot of frightening combinations. One of the more common is a small plastic bag of household batteries in combination with a stack of fluorescent light bulbs. This danger is twofold. Improperly stored batteries can catch fire or explode. And the other is that people don't consider that the batteries are heavy and the light bulbs break—very easily. The fumes in the bulbs contain mercury, a hazardous chemical." In other words, if one of these bulbs breaks in your vehicle, you have just exposed everyone in the vehicle to toxic chemicals you were bringing to the event to avoid. And this is just one of the transportation concerns McCall and the County's team of hazardous waste specialists has seen. Here are a few basic tips they suggest for safer transportation of your hazardous waste:

- If at all possible, don't transport ANY materials in the passenger area of your vehicle. If something explodes, catches on fire, or any other unexpected reaction, everyone inside is exposed.
- Leave things in their original containers as often as possible. This helps avoid mixing incompatible materials together and also helps the specialists know what they are dealing with.
- Transport and store things in boxes or bags separately. This helps prevent unwanted mixture as well as capturing any spillage that often occurs during transport.
- Tape both ends of lithium batteries so that they cannot come in contact with one another. These batteries can be quite dangerous when this happens, potentially starting fires or exploding.
- Never mix materials. Common materials such as ammonia and bleach can cause serious health risks. Many of us do not consider this fact as we clean out our cupboards. It is NEVER worth the risk.
- If you don't know what something is, leave it in its current container, place it in a plastic bag, and be sure to notify the unloading crew that it is an unknown substance.
- Do not mix your regular garbage and recycling with your hazardous waste. This increases your chances of unwanted mixture, breakage or spillage as well as making it unsafe and difficult for the unloading team to unload your stuff. If your hazardous waste is not easily accessible, you may be asked to unload other items first and then return.

Please dispose of materials no longer wanted or useable rather than storing it. Some materials and containers become increasingly unstable as they age. If you are preparing to sell your property, be courteous and clean out your hazardous waste. You will have a better idea what is on your shelf; please don't leave it for the purchaser to deal with.

After you triple rinse empty lawn and garden containers, they can be thrown into the garbage. Empty and completely dried paint containers may also be thrown in the regular garbage.

Be smart with your hazardous waste. Be safe. Look for safe alternatives to chemical products. The Oregon DEQ has an extensive guide on alternatives. Visit their website here, [http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/hazardless\\_home\\_handbook\\_2006.pdf](http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/hazardless_home_handbook_2006.pdf) to find it, or contact the Tillamook County Solid Waste office for a copy.

The next collection date is Saturday, June 2, 9am until 1pm. For more information on Tillamook County's residential Household Hazardous Waste collection, contact our office at (503) 815-3975 or visit our website at <http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/SolidWaste/Default.htm>

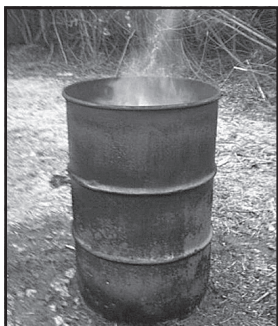
## UP IN SMOKE!

Have you ever had your experience of our beautiful county marred by the smoke and smell of backyard burning? Most of us can answer that we have. Many of us can answer that we are the ones doing the burning. "I'm only burning my garbage," one might claim, but is burning our garbage really that simple? Is it safe? Is it REALLY okay?

Backyard burning is actually a very serious threat to our environment. So much so that it is illegal in many areas. Home burning of household waste is one of the leading sources of dioxins in our nation.

What is a dioxin? A dioxin is a toxic chemical released upon burning and becomes an airborne contaminant. Not only do we breathe this poison, airborne dioxins contaminate our food chains, being absorbed by the crops that our animals eat and leaching into the water we drink. Dioxins have been linked to health problems such as cancer and developmental and reproductive disorders and are especially hard on children, the elderly and those with sensitivities. According to the EPA, "typically, dioxins do not exist in materials before they are incinerated but are produced when waste is burned. Significantly higher levels of dioxins are created by burning trash in burn barrels than in municipal incinerators." In other words, if we dispose of our trash in proper ways, instead of burning, the toxins are not present.

So, how DO we dispose of our waste correctly? The three R's of recycling can help! Try to avoid burning by REDUCING what waste you generate. You can do this in part by REUSING things instead of throwing them away. Many of the things in our burn barrel can be RECYCLED. It just takes a few minutes of your time to separate them out and dispose of them properly.

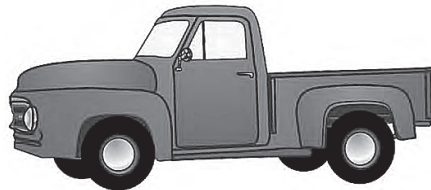


Help yourself, your family, your neighborhood, your world. Don't burn your garbage.

For more information contact the Solid Waste Department, or visit the EPA's Backyard Burning website at: [www.epa.gov/msw/backyard](http://www.epa.gov/msw/backyard). To learn more about Dioxins, visit the EPA's Dioxin website at: [www.epa.gov/ncea/dioxin.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ncea/dioxin.htm)



VOUCHERS ARE WORTH 9 CUBIC YARDS OF YARD DEBRIS MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> - SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> PRESENTED BY THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY



Safety Message: Please cover your yard debris load with a tarp.

### NO COMMERCIAL USE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

VEHICLE LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



### Participating Transfer Stations

**Tillamook Transfer Station:**  
1315 Ekloff Rd • Tillamook, OR 97141 (off Tillamook River Rd 3 miles south of the City of Tillamook) On site phone number: 503-842-4588 Hours: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Seven days a week

**Manzanita Transfer Station:**  
34995 Necarney Rd • Manzanita, OR 97130 (between Manzanita and Nehalem) On site phone number: 503-368-7764 Hours: SUMMER (Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend): Thursday through Monday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Pacific City Transfer Station:**  
38255 Brooten Rd • Pacific City, OR 97135 (2 miles SE of Pacific City) Office phone: number: 503-392-3438 Hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Friday and Saturday only

### Acceptable Yard Debris Items:

tree limbs, leaves, yard and lawn clippings, branches, twigs, shrubs, weeds, woody debris, rose bush clippings

### Unacceptable Items:

tree stumps, no household trash or plastic bags, sod with dirt



### TAKE CONTROL!

Help reduce your risk of wildfire in just a weekend. Create a defensible space, a 30' non combustible zone around your home. Defensible space is an effective method to reduce your risk against wildfire.



For more information, call the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department at 503-815-3975 email [recycle@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.tillamook.or.us) or see us online at [www.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste](http://www.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste)

