

**DESERT MANAGERS GROUP
ILLEGAL DUMP DATABASE**
version 1.2

USER GUIDE



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Background

Due to a variety of socioeconomic and geographic factors, illegal, unauthorized dumping within the Southern California Desert Region is rampant. Illegal dumping raises significant concerns regarding public health and safety and the health of the environment. Besides impairing visual resources, illegal dumps may contaminate ground water or encourage the improper disposal of hazardous wastes. Illegal dump sites may attract ravens that in turn may prey on juvenile desert tortoises, a federally listed species. Illegal dumping is an important issue in each park, installation and resource area within the desert.

To combat illegal dumping, the DMG is creating a database of all illegal dumps within the Southern California Desert Region. The database will assign each illegal dump a risk factor that reflects that site's risk to the environment and human health. This information is an important tool in the prioritization of cleanup projects. It will also help define and document the scope of the illegal dumping problem in parks and on public lands within the Southern California Desert Region. The database will also generate GIS layers that can alert us to dumping problem areas and help us focus an organized, desert-wide dumping prevention program. Each office can access the database through the Internet to the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Project at www.dmg.gov/hazmat/opendump. Through partnerships, illegal dump cleanups are accomplished each year.

Using the database

The database can be accessed by any personal computer connected to the Internet. The database is located at www.dmg.gov/hazmat/opendump. The database uses pull-down menus that will calculate the dump's relative hazard factor and exposure factor. A printable database form with these menus is available for downloading at the database's homepage. This form should be printed and taken into the field. All data should be recorded on the form and the form submitted to the Illegal Dump Coordinator after the site has been entered into the database.

When surveying dump sites, please be as quantitative as possible. Remember that the database's usefulness depends on the quality of its data. If you have problems or need technical support please contact the Illegal Dump Coordinator or one of the HMWG Co-Chairs.

Datafields

Dump Name: Use the official name of the dump from the case files. If there is no official name, give it a name that is geographically descriptive of the site.

Agency Case Number: This can be either a law enforcement case number or a lands recordation number (ie CACA).

Land Owner: Use master title plats, land status maps or tax assessor records to determine land ownership. If the dump is on several parcels that are of a different land status (ie NPS and private) determine the approximate percent in each.

Location: Please use a GPS unit and determine the dump's location in Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM). The GPS unit should be set to NAD83 mapping datum. The database will automatically calculate latitude/longitude and legal description if UTM is entered. The perimeter of large dumps should be mapped in order to draw a polygon for the entire site. It should be noted if the spatial data is raw or has been differentially corrected. If you have questions about proper GPS operation, please contact your GIS specialist or the dumping coordinator.

Size/Volume: Estimate the size of the dump in either cubic yards or acres, whichever is more appropriate. When making cubic yardage estimations, remember that a small dumpster is three cubic-yards and a large roll-off bin is forty cubic-yards. If estimating in acreage, a map may be useful. Remember that one acre is approximately the size of a football field (no end zones) or about 200 feet by 200 feet. The goal is present an idea of how much garbage is in the dump, not how spread out geographically the dump is. If you need help estimating a dump's size, please call us.

Growth Rate: New dumps contain new garbage. Look for unrusted cans or recent newspapers. Then, balance the amount of this material against the material that is obviously old.

Hazard Class:

Confirmed pollution- There are confirmed hazardous materials (federal or state) or the dump is confirmed to be producing pollution such as heavy metals or methane gas. Confirmed pollution should be substantiated with lab reports.

Suspected or threatened pollution- You suspect pollution as above, but no testing has occurred. If you are unsure if testing is needed, contact a hazmat specialist.

Household waste- The dump contains only benign household trash, however, there are no household hazardous wastes (batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze and many common household cleaners). If household hazardous wastes are present, then there is pollution. If only empty, dry containers are present then there is no pollution.

Oil- The dump contains oil in containers. If the oil is on the ground then it is pollution.

Inert waste- Building materials such as concrete, untreated wood, native vegetation.

Asbestos:

Confirmed friable asbestos- Friable means that the material containing the asbestos can be pulverized with your hand. Lab reports are required to determine the asbestos content. Contact a hazmat specialist for sampling.

Confirmed nonfriable asbestos- Must be confirmed with lab report.

Suspected friable asbestos- There is friable material in the dump that you suspect contains asbestos.
Suspected nonfriable asbestos- There is nonfriable material that you suspect contains asbestos.
Transite tile, roofing and tar, sheet rock and brake drums may contain asbestos.

Biowaste: Self explanatory

Physical Hazards: A significant fall hazard would entail a hole, pit, or mine shaft, or very steep, uneven terrain. Most other dump situations will be slip/trip/fall hazards.

Point Source Pollution: The definition of a wash may vary. Look for a wide sand swath with no vegetation that has clearly been formed by water. Use the outermost limits of a wash or riparian area as your distance criteria.

Population Location Proximity: Estimate distance.

Transient Population: Signs of public visitation include bullet shells and bullet holes in metal, tracks, fresh dumping and the proximity to other human activities.

White Goods: Appliances or large metal objects, may include refrigerators, washers, dryers, ovens, water heaters, etc.

Tires: Any size and any shape of tire should be counted. If there are too many tires to count (more than fifty) then estimate the number.

Vehicles: Abandoned cars, trucks, vans, etc. If large vehicle parts exist (frames, bodies, etc.), count them as a whole. If a vehicle is leaking fluids, you have pollution.

Furniture: Any furniture or large cumbersome items.

Drums: Count fifty-five gallon drums. Count other drums (down to five gallons), but note the approximate size. Note any drums that may contain any substance or labels. **DO NOT OPEN!**

NEPA/CEQA Complete: self explanatory

Biological Mitigation or Monitoring: This refers to whether or not monitoring or mitigation will be required during the cleanup or as a result of the cleanup. Check with a biologist if you are unsure. If the dump is in threatened or endangered specie habitat, monitoring will probably be required.

Cultural Mitigation or Monitoring: If the waste is more than forty years old, this is needed. If you are unsure how old the dump is, ask an archaeologist. Pull-top beer/soda cans date to 1972, aerosol cans date to 1959, aluminum beer cans also date to 1959. Purple glass and square nails are a sign the dump is historic. Remember that parts of the dump may be older than others. If any part of the dump is historic, monitoring will probably be needed during cleanup.

Wilderness: self explanatory

Ability to Use Equipment: Will the use of equipment such as trucks and loaders be limited by tertian, policy or law? Even if the dump is with wilderness, equipment might be allowed if a minimal tool study is conducted. Contact the wilderness coordinator.

Management Priority: Check with your manager if you are unsure.

Notice and Orders from LEA: Has the dump been formally issued a notice to cease and desist? If you are unsure, check with your hazmat specialist or environmental coordinator.

Citizen Complaints: self explanatory

Funding or Partners: Does your office have external funding (grant, etc.) or partnerships that will be available for the cleanup?

Notes: Write down any special considerations.

Directions: Write directions from a road that exists on a map. Be as specific as possible.

Map / Drawing: Draw the nearest road and the dump. Denote garbage with Xs or with a different color. Also note washes, holes or shafts, hills, mountains, or large rocks, and the location of any special concerns.

Agency Contact: The information on the government employee that is lead for the site.

Data Colleted By: You and/or your group, if you are not the contact.

Reports

The database will be capable of providing GIS layers and other reports. These features are not yet available to the average user. If you have a specific need, please contact the Illegal Dump Coordinator.