



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Evangeline Parish man arrested for alleged illegal burning of waste tires

Today, investigators with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested an Evangeline Parish man for the alleged illegal burning of waste tires. Officers with the Basile Police Department originally responded to a burning complaint on March 8 at 2348 Guillory Street in Basile. The findings of that investigation were forwarded to DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division which led to the arrest.

Leroy Hardy, 70, of Basile, is alleged to have knowingly dumped and burned waste tires and other solid wastes at his residence in Basile. Hardy was previously cited in a compliance order issued by DEQ in March of 2012 for similar violations which occurred in February and August of 2011.

Deputies with the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office also participated in Hardy's arrest.

"Tire burning is a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Vince Sagnibene, DEQ's Undersecretary. "Further, it is unnecessary as landfills will accept up to five waste tires a day from individuals."

If convicted of the crime of knowingly emitting pollutants to the environment which could endanger human life or health, Hardy faces possible imprisonment for not more than 10 years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$100,000, or both.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or 1-888-763-5424.

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.