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Please join us for a meeting and complimentary breakfast on **Tuesday, September 10, 2019**. The meeting will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Environmental Services office at 206 W. Church Street, 2nd floor. Danielle Cochran and Kristen Fenati, Technical Specialists with TCEQ Small Business & Local Government Assistance, will do a presentation on "Managing Air Permits and Hazardous Waste."

This meeting is FREE to attend and is an opportunity for ARB businesses and city staff to have an open discussion on compliance issues or obstacles they are experiencing. For more information, please contact Chandani Rana by phone at (972)-237-8082 or by email at crana@gptx.org.

DO CAR INTERIORS BECOME TOXIC IN THE SUMMER?



Car interiors are made of various materials that are coated and treated with different chemicals such as flame retardants, formaldehyde, bromine, and chlorine. These materials have potential to release such chemicals all year round; however, it is at highest level during summer when temperatures inside a vehicle can reach up to 190° F. That's because exposure to high heat and ultraviolet light from the sun's rays speed up this process of releasing toxins. When chemicals cannot escape they build up inside the vehicle. Over time, prolonged exposure to these chemicals can lead to health problems like memory loss, hormonal issues, central nervous disorders, or even cancer.

Some ways to help reduce the buildup of chemicals is to keep windows slightly opened to allow fresh air to circulate and to use UV resistant shade in the windows. Whenever possible, avoid staying in a hot car for too long without proper ventilation.

WORKING SAFELY DURING HOT WEATHER

Exposure to heat can cause illness and even death if you aren't properly prepared. Heat illness can occur when there is high temperature and high humidity, direct sun exposure, and no breeze paired with heavy physical labor and low liquid intake. Symptoms may include: headache, weakness, dizziness, irritability, and nausea. Take the following precautions to prevent heat illness:



Hydrate frequently. A good rule of thumb is to drink water every 15 minutes to prevent dehydration.



Wear light weight, loose fitting, light colored clothes and take breaks.



Stay out of direct sun when possible.

If a worker is showing signs of heat illness call for help, move the employee to a cool, shaded area. If they are able to drink provide them with cool (not cold) water. If they seem confused or are not alert, this may be a heat stroke and you should call 911 immediately.

**KEEP TIRES PROPERLY INFLATED.
MAINTAINING PROPER TIRE
PRESSURE IS LIKE SAVING 10 CENTS
PER GALLON!!**



**IT ALSO REDUCES YOUR TAILPIPE
EMISSIONS.**



**FIND OUT MORE WAYS TO
REDUCE AIR POLLUTION
AT AIRNORTHTEXAS.ORG**

FIGHT THE BITE

With warm weather comes mosquitos and Grand Prairie needs everyone's help to combat mosquito harborage. Mosquitoes need standing water in order to breed and they don't need much. Mosquitos have 4 life stages and the first 3 are all spent in standing water, therefore, eliminating even the smallest amount of water can help. All tires without rims must be stored undercover, but it is also a violation of the Grand Prairie's Vector Control ordinance to allow an accumulation of water on your property.

PROTECTING YOUR WATERSHED

Do you know why Environmental Quality inspects all auto businesses? It's all about protecting Grand Prairie's storm water and therefore, protecting the watersheds. A watershed is an area of land where all of the water under or above land goes to the same waterbody. Each waterbody has its own corresponding watershed and no matter where you are in the world, you are standing in a watershed.



During an inspection, we always ask "How does this facility affect the watershed?" To be in compliance make sure all spills are properly contained and cleaned, trash and debris are picked up, waste is properly stored and disposed of, sanding discharge is kept indoors, and wash water is discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Failure to comply with these requirements can pollute storm water, thus can have a negative effect on the watershed. To find your watershed, visit www.gptx.org/environmentalquality.

PARKING/STORING VEHICLES IN RIGHT-OF-WAY

According to City Ordinance Article V Section 29-89.1 storage or parking of any vehicle, operable or inoperable, or any portion of such vehicle on the public right-of-way between the improved roadway and the property line is declared a nuisance and prohibited. Vehicles should not be parked or stored to impede traffic on the sidewalk or to block a portion of the roadway. Vehicles parked or stored on the right-of-way, in violation of this article for a period in excess of forty-eight (48) hours, will be towed to the city vehicle impound or another approved vehicle storage facility and charges will be assessed for such expenses.



To help with mosquito breeding and to make sure your facility is in compliance do not store open containers outside, drill holes in the bottom of any scrap metal or recycle containers to allow for drainage, keep gutters cleaned, and maintain parking lots to avoid any standing water.

Useful Contacts

Building Inspections

(972) 237-8230

Code Compliance

(972) 237-8296

Environmental Quality

(972) 237-8055

TEXAS TROUBLE

A commercial truck washing facility in El Paso County was fined \$10,625 for failing to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater under the TCEQ General Permit to dispose of wastewater by evaporation from surface impoundments adjacent to water in the state.

A tire shop in Guadalupe County was fined \$5,500 for failure to mark used oil containers with the words "Used Oil," failing to use work orders to document the removal and management of all scrap tires generated at the facility and failing to permanently remove petroleum underground storage tanks from service.



A tire shop in Hidalgo County was fined \$10,125 for failing to register as a used or scrap tire generator and storage site while storing more than 500 used or scrap tires on the ground or 2,000 in enclosed containers.

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