

# Tires

## The Problem



Photo: 1998 tire fire in Tracy, CA.  
Source: East Bay Times

California generates over 51 million tires annually, both unusable and reusable. Many of these unwanted tires are in stockpiles which are a threat to public health. When improperly stored, tires can be the source of massive fires and be a vector for disease due to the standing water in tires. When a tire fire occurs, the tires begin to breakdown into hazardous compounds, including oil and heavy metals, that leach into our ground and water supply. These hazardous compounds are also highly flammable making the fires hard to contain. While rare,

the fire can result in a superfund site. For example, a tire fire in Rhinehart, VA, in 1998 resulted in a 50-mile-long fire that burned for nine months. The site where the fire occurred is now a superfund site and left immense pollution in three states.

## The Solution

Tires are made of an easily recyclable material and have been used across the state to produce endless tire-derived products (TDP). TDP fulfills a wide range of needs from building construction, pavement and more, while proving to be safe, durable, and a smart investment.

[AB 1843 \(Brown\): Tire Recycling Act](#) was passed in 1989 to establish the Tire Recycling Program and the California Tire Recycling Management Fund. The bill made CalRecycle responsible for the implementation of tire waste programs, as well as establishing standards and a permitting program for tire waste facilities for the storage and disposal of tires. The act also imposed a fee where individuals who purchase a “new” tire in California must pay a fee per tire. The funds are deposited into the Tire Recycling Fund for the oversight, enforcement, and market development grants relating to waste tire management and recycling

Various clean-up bills have been passed since the Tire Recycle Act was established to improve the program. Most notable is [SB 876 \(Escutia\)](#) was passed in 2000. The bill temporarily increased the tire fee to \$1.75 until January 1, 2024, to allow for a portion of the fee to go into the Air Pollution Control Fund managed by CARB for programs and projects that mitigate or remediate air pollution caused by tires. The key provision of the bill was the requirement for CalRecycle to adopt a [Five-Year Plan](#) to establish goals and priorities for the waste tire program.

## Safely Disposed of Your Tires

- [CalRecycle](#) – Statewide
- [Earth 911](#) – Nationwide



## Research & Relevant Articles

- [Five-Year Plan for the Waste Tire Recycling Management Program](#) – CalRecycle, 2/5/2021
- [Reports on Air Emissions from Waste Tire Burning in California](#) – CARB
- [Tire Fires](#) – U.S. EPA, 2/22/2016
- [Tire Pile Fires: Tire Pile Fires: Prevention, Prevention, Response, Response, Remediation](#) – U.S. EPA Integrated Waste Management Board, 9/22/2002

## Links

- [Waste Tire Brochure](#) – County of Sacramento
- [Tire-Derived Products \(TDP\)](#)
- [Scrap Tires Basic Information](#) – U.S. EPA