

Media Release
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900 kg of asbestos illegally dumped

The Environment Protection Authority is calling on members of the public to come forward with any information that may help locate the person responsible for dumping 900 kg of asbestos in a nature strip at the intersection of Kokoda and Goolwa Roads, at Mosquito Hill, South of Adelaide.

The dumping was reported to the EPA on Wednesday by a person walking in the area. The asbestos was wrapped in 30 plastic bags printed with 'asbestos waste' and sealed with grey adhesive duct tape, as well as a further five packages wrapped in black plastic sheeting and also sealed with grey adhesive duct tape.

The material is believed to have been dumped during the period Monday 22 May to Wednesday 24 May 2017.

EPA Manager Investigations Stephen Barry said the bags were opened under controlled conditions by the EPA and revealed asbestos material which appears to consist of broken up pipework and underground pit walls.

"Given the quantity and type of material, and the method of wrapping, this suggests the involvement of a professional asbestos removalist. We'd ask anyone with information about the dumping to come forward. If someone has had asbestos removed at their home or business recently, and the type of material, amount and timeframe answers the description of the asbestos which was found, please contact us as it may help us locate the offender," Mr Barry said.

"Asbestos is a hazardous material and it is very fortunate in this case that the material was sealed and found by a quick-thinking member of the public who called the EPA. Had someone opened or handled the material, they could have been exposed to dangerous fibres," he said.

The EPA can be contacted 24 hours on 8204 2004 or epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au. Photographs of the dumped asbestos have been posted on the EPA's website at www.epa.sa.gov.au and Twitter – SA_EPA.

The bags have been removed from the site and retained as evidence by the EPA. The site has been inspected and cleared of any further asbestos material.

People who dump waste illegally could be fined up to \$120,000 and face up to 2 years imprisonment. If the dumped waste causes environmental harm the penalty increases to \$500,000 & 4 years imprisonment. Corporations face higher fines, of up to \$250,000 to \$2 million.

For further information please contact 0408 482 833 or email epamedia@sa.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority