

Media Release

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EPA seeks information after large amount of asbestos material dumped at Willunga Hill

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is calling on the public for information following the discovery of eight bags of asbestos contaminated material dumped at Willunga Hill.

The bags, containing 160kg of broken asbestos telecommunication pits and soil from the pit removal sites, was found packaged and labelled in bushes at the rest area on the down track of Willunga Hill.

It's believed the material was dumped sometime between Saturday 10 June and Tuesday 27 June, 2017. The EPA attended the site and transported the bags to an accredited asbestos landfill for examination and disposal. The site has been inspected and cleared of any further asbestos material.

This is the second time in the past month that a substantial amount of the hazardous material has been found illegally dumped along the Victor Harbour corridor south of Adelaide.

On 24 May the EPA was alerted to 900kg of asbestos contaminated material was dumped in a nature strip at the intersection of Kokoda and Goolwa Roads, at Mosquito Hill.

The packaging in both instances is identical, with 'asbestos waste' printed on the plastic bags and sealed with grey adhesive duct tape.

EPA Manager Investigations and Tactical Support, Stephen Barry said that the type of material found and the way in which the bags have been packaged suggests there is involvement of a professional asbestos removalist.

"We'd ask anyone with information about the material or dumping to come forward. The distinctive bagging and sealing method is often used in the process of removing asbestos telecommunication pits and we are working with the industry in an attempt to identify the person or persons responsible.

"Someone is being paid to transport and dispose of this material and all contractors should ask for receipts to ensure that the material is received at licensed landfills. If anyone has any information that would help us catch the responsible person involved in these dumping's please contact the EPA via the phone numbers or links on our website," Mr Barry said.

"Asbestos is an extremely dangerous material particularly if asbestos dust and fibres are inhaled or handled incorrectly. To carelessly dump this material in a public area not only creates an environmental hazard but also poses a significant health risk," Mr Barry said.

For further information please contact EPA Media: 0439 137 641 or epamedia@sa.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority

The EPA can be contacted 24 hours on 8204 2004 or epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au.

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.