



Environmental help available to Kansas salvage yards

Introduction

The salvage industry is important — it keeps tons of material that could be used again out of the landfills. Unfortunately, some of this material contains pollutants that could harm the soil, water, and air. Because of this, the salvage industry has many environmental rules to follow. Salvage yard operators must be careful that oil, fuel, antifreeze, and air-conditioning refrigerants do not spill on soil and water, or go into the air.

Many environmental regulations or rules concern salvage yards. Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) enforces environmental rules and regulations in Kansas. KDHE is organized into groups called bureaus that are divided as follows: waste management, water, air and radiation, environmental remediation, and environmental field services. KDHE also maintains a Web site full of useful information such as permit applications, regulatory references, and technical guidance documents to help businesses comply with environmental regulations; go to <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us> for more information.

So, if I am in the salvage business, how do I know which environmental regulations I have to comply with? This fact sheet lists specific salvage yard operations and related KDHE departments (and telephone numbers) that salvage yard owners or operators may need to know about to achieve compliance.

Bureau of Environmental Field Services

The Bureau of Environmental Field Services has a public advocate that will answer questions, investigate complaints, and support Kansas businesses and the public as needed. This bureau oversees the free, confidential Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) that helps small businesses understand their responsibilities for environmental regulations. For more information, call Cathy Colglazier, Public Advocate, at 785-296-0669, or 800-357-6087 (toll free); visit the Small Business/Community Support Web site at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/sbcs/>.

SBEAP is run by Kansas State University's Pollution Prevention Institute. The public advocate may suggest that businesses contact SBEAP for technical help. For more information, visit the SBEAP Web site at <http://www.sbeap.org>.

Bureau of Waste Management

The Bureau of Waste Management regulates generation, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal of solid and hazardous waste generated in Kansas. Do you have questions about how to properly manage used oil, waste tires, antifreeze, batteries, waste fuel, mercury, or other waste materials? Call the Bureau of Waste Management at 785-296-1600 for more information. Or, go to the Bureau of Waste Management Web site at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste/index.html>.

Bureau of Air and Radiation

The Bureau of Air and Radiation regulates programs for air quality and chemical information reporting, including inventory and usage. The Bureau of Air and Radiation can answer your questions regarding aluminum sweat furnace permitting, incinerator operation, open burning, and Tier II chemical inventory reporting. Call the Bureau of Air and Radiation at 785-296-6024 for more information.

Bureau of Water

The Bureau of Water oversees numerous programs to protect the quality of surface water and groundwater. Those programs related to salvage operations may include septic systems, lagoons, wastewater treatment facilities, storm water and wastewater discharges, and safe drinking water supplies (if you have a well serving more than 25 people). Call the Bureau of Water at 785-296-5500 for more information, or go to the Bureau of Water Web site at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/water/>.

Bureau of Environmental Remediation

The Bureau of Environmental Remediation responds to environmental contamination by controlling pollution at the source. It regulates cleanup actions and handles environmental emergencies. If you have questions regarding the voluntary cleanup program, storage tank requirements, spills, or contaminated sites, call the Bureau of Environmental Remediation at 785-296-1660 for more information. Or, go to the Bureau of Environmental Remediation Web site at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/ber/>.



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Environmental Protection Agency

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal regulatory agency responsible for the quality of the environment and all regulations to ensure the health and well being of the American public and the national environment. The EPA Region 7 office serves Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska. For the salvage industry, EPA oversees refrigerant-recovery requirements and spill control and countermeasure (SPCC) plans. For information about refrigerant-recovery requirements, call 913-551-7623. For information on SPCC plan requirements, call 800-223-0425.

Pollution Prevention Institute

The Pollution Prevention Institute (PPI), part of Engineering Extension at Kansas State University, runs the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP). SBEAP will provide free help with your environmental questions. Contacts with businesses are confidential, just between you and the person that helps you. PPI has information on how to stop pollution before it becomes pollution (pollution prevention or P2). It can also help you lower the amount of waste from your operations and the cost to get rid of waste, and can help you make more money. For free, confidential help, call PPI at 800-578-8898.

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The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program's (SBEAP) mission is to help Kansas small businesses comply with environmental regulations and identify pollution prevention opportunities. SBEAP is funded through a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. SBEAP services are free and confidential. For more information, call 800-578-8898, send an e-mail to SBEAP@ksu.edu, or visit our Web site at <http://www.sbeap.org>. Kansas State University is an EEO/AA provider.