

Scrap Tire NEWS

Covering The News And Developments In The Scrap Tire Recycling Industry

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FIFA Says Rubber Granules Don't Cause Cancer

Photo courtesy of Nanon A/S



Recycled rubber is used exclusively in artificial sports surfaces.

FIFA, the international football (soccer) organization, has issued an open letter saying that it finds no evidence that the rubber granules (crumb rubber) used on artificial turf fields are dangerous. The organization stated "The available body of research does not substantiate the assumption that cancer resulting from exposure to SBR granulate infills in artificial turf could potentially occur."

In November 2004, UEFA, the European governing body for football (soccer) announced it would permit championship matches to be played on artificial turf starting with the 2005/06 season.

UEFA's decision followed a two-year trial on pitches (fields) in various parts of Europe, which showed that manufacturers had eliminated previous problems with artificial surfaces. ♦

GreenMan Sells California Subsidiary

Tire recycler GreenMan Technologies Inc. has sold its wholly owned subsidiary in California to its former owner, Vern Mabry, effective July 17.

GreenMan said the subsidiary, GreenMan Technologies of California Inc., was formed in 2002 to acquire all the outstanding common stock of Unlimited Tire Technologies Inc., an Azusa, Calif., scrap tire recycling company in which Vern Mabry was majority owner. Terms of the transaction weren't disclosed.

"While we would have preferred to maintain a presence in the California tire recycling market, our California subsidiary's performance had not met expectations, and therefore we felt it was in the company's best interest to divest the subsidiary," GreenMan CEO Lyle Jensen said.

"We can now focus our efforts on maximizing performance of our core Midwestern operations in order to realize their full potential." Jensen added that the California divestiture and the recently announced refinancing agreement with its primary lender, Laurus Master Fund Ltd., mark the completion of two more steps in GreenMan's five-step turnaround plan. Also as part of its restructuring efforts, the struggling company moved its main offices to Savage, Minn., from Lynnfield, MA in April. ♦



GreenMan of CA specialized in processing OTR tires.

New Mexico Changes Timeline For Draft Tire Rules

Auralie Ashley-Marx, Solid Waste Bureau Chief for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMENV) has announced a change in the timeline regarding the draft of the Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) Rules (20.9.2 NMAC). The original Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) hearing date has been postponed. A new hearing date of December 5, 2006, will be requested of the EIB.

Final written comments were due July 21, 2006. However NMENV officials will continue to meet interested parties until August 11, 2006.

See New Mexico page 17...

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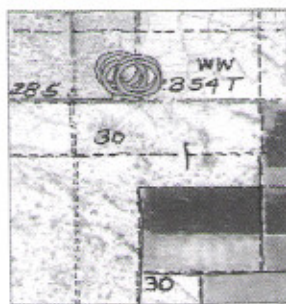
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Mapping Waste Tire Piles With Satellite Imagery

San Francisco, California-based Endpoint Environmental (2E), a woman-owned small business, is the first in the United States to use satellite imagery to create maps of waste tire piles. The method, called the Tire Identification from Reflectance (TIRe) Model, is a computer-assisted image processing algorithm. The output from the TIRe Model, when used in conjunction with manual image interpretation techniques, will produce a map of tire piles from commercially available high-resolution satellite imagery. 2E currently holds a two-year subcontract with San Francisco State University to map waste tire piles in California and along the California/Mexico Border for California Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB).

2E Founder and CEO, Catherine Huybrechts and colleague Becky Quinlan developed the TIRe while employed with the DEVELOP Program at NASA's Ames Research Center, during a pilot-project funded by CIWMB in 2005. Four study areas, each approximately 62 square miles, were mapped in both northern and southern California. CIWMB withheld information on at least three tire pile sites in each study area to test the TIRe Model. All test sites were identified along with two previously unknown tire pile sites in two different study areas.

The TIRe Model is able to identify piles as small as 100 densely-grouped tires. This covers approximately 36 square feet on the ground. TIRe Model identifies the darkest subjects in the image, including tire piles, shadows, water, debris piles and objects with tire material content such as black tarps, polyethylene tubing, and parking lots. A trained image analyst compares the TIRe Model output with the original satellite image and separates tire piles from other dark subjects to create a map. Maps produced at 2E feature the following information: pile location (longitude, latitude coordinates); street, city, county data; additionally



A sample of 2E's hard copy map... reveals a waste tire pile in the field

requested information such as census data, topography, or parcel maps. Maps are provided to clients as: hard-copy form; a 2E Workbook (workbook/atlas for field managers), a Web-GIS site, or a 3D Visualization.

High-resolution satellite imagery is great for locating scrap tire piles that can otherwise be hidden from plain view Huybrechts noted. Imagery also serves as physical evidence and can be used in court proceedings, which is valuable when an unfortunate incident is incurred with a noncompliant citizen. Mapping tire piles with satellite imagery reduces long term costs and time required by field inspectors to identify sites. The model can also be used to locate and map other environmental nuisances such as debris piles, landfills or other waste-related issues.

"The added value of our products is what we call Quick-Response Mapping, which is essentially a proprietary method for creating maps from satellite imagery," Catherine Huybrechts said. Quick-Response Mapping reduces the time traditionally required to create maps, enabling our clients to make faster policy, environmental, and/or economic decisions," she said. Call 415-292-5068 or visit www.endpointenvironmental.com. ♦

MTB Recycling
QUARTIER DE LA GARE 38460 TREPT
PHONE + 33 (0) 474 929 942
FAX + 33 (0) 474 929 230
<http://www.mtb-recycling.com/>

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