

Oklahoma Environmental Crime Investigators Association

P.O. Box 91
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

www.oecia.org

Proper Disposal of Solid Waste

Be warned!

It's easy to find someone with a pickup truck and trailer who will haul off your trash or debris for a few bucks. But do you know where that waste is being taken?

As a generator of solid waste, you're responsible for ensuring that waste goes to a properly permitted landfill. If you're paying someone below-market rates to haul waste off, then you must assume that it's being dumped somewhere *illegally*.

A lot of the waste dumped in rural parts of our counties comes from "amateur haulers" who present themselves as legitimate waste haulers, but in reality are anything but; and *you* could be held responsible if your waste is dumped illegally. Once solid waste is hauled off, it must go *directly* to a location that has a permit from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)—a landfill or a permitted transfer station. It cannot be unloaded and reloaded, sorted, and most certainly cannot be burned.

What should you do?

Follow these steps to make sure your waste is going where it's supposed to:

1. ASK! If the hauler can't (or won't) tell you the name of the legitimate disposal site where the waste is to be taken, that should be a red flag.
2. Get a copy of the hauler's drivers license before making payment. This will help identify the responsible party if the waste is dumped illegally somewhere.
3. Take a photo of the vehicle (including the tag) that's hauling off your waste. This also helps identify parties involved in illegal dumping.

To report illegal dumping or another environmental crime, go to:

www.oecia.org



Knowingly allowing your waste to be taken to an unpermitted disposal site is a crime. Penalties can be up to \$10,000 in fines and 6 months in jail, or even more if the dumping pollutes a body of water in some way.