



Using Discarded Tires for Wind Erosion Control

Technical Guidance Document SW 99-01

The use of discarded tires for wind erosion (blowout) control on sandy rangeland has been a practice for several decades. It is a common practice in the Sandhills area of Nebraska and has been used to some extent in Kansas. Tires have also been used for erosion control along pipeline and cable laying right-of-ways, and around utility poles and fence posts. The purpose of this technical guidance document is to set guidelines for the use of discarded tires for erosion control in order to insure that pollution does not occur.

Approval for using tires in wind erosion control:

Written approval must be obtained from KDHE before tires may be used for wind erosion control.

Exception: *In the case of unexpected occurrences (e.g. wildfires), approval may not be needed before placing tires. In these instances, approval must be obtained as soon as possible after placement.*

Approvals, in the form of a beneficial use exemption, may be obtained by writing to the address above. A written plan, as described on the back of this document, must be submitted with the approval request.

Site restrictions: As a general rule, sites should be under $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and preferably under $\frac{1}{4}$ acre. Discarded tires should be used when no other method is feasible. The following are alternatives for areas larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre:

- * spreading animal manure over the area, and working it into the surface with an appropriate seed mix.
- * sowing an appropriate seed mix and mulching with straw or hay.

Arrangement of tires:

Preferred: A random pattern that does not allow wind to find a straight line path through the tires.

Alternate: Straight lines of tires laid perpendicular to the prevailing wind. This may be necessary when the blowout is on the side of a dune.

Seeding the area: In most cases, seeding the entire blowout area is not feasible. Hand seeding and incorporating small amounts of an appropriate seed mix inside the tire after it is placed should be considered.

Duration of the practice: Monitor the site regularly. Tires may be left in place until adequate vegetative cover has developed to insure the blowout is stable. At this point, any or all tires should be removed if their removal will not cause damage to the new vegetative cover. Tires that are $\frac{1}{2}$ or more buried in the soil probably should not be removed. Active sand movement may still be possible.

These technical guidelines were developed by Kansas State University and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service at the request of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

For additional information regarding proper management of solid waste, you may contact the Bureau of Waste Management at (785)296-1600 or the address at the top of this document.

Guidelines for Obtaining a Beneficial Use Exemption

The following items must be submitted to KDHE for approval:

1. A letter from the property owner requesting an exemption to use waste tires for controlling wind erosion of sand hills.
2. A letter from the zoning authority or, if the property is not zoned, from the county commission stating that the tire accumulation is in accordance with all applicable zoning regulations (K.S.A. 65-3424a(b)(2)(B)(ii)).
3. Location information including:
 - A. An aerial photograph with the following information marked on it:
 - the location of individual sites;
 - approximate plot sizes; and
 - the expected number of tires at each site.Aerial photographs are available from the local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) or Farm Service Agency (FSA).
 - B. Drawings showing typical tire placement in accordance with the “**Arrangement of tires**” section on the front of this form.