Training Law Enforcement in Environmental Crimes

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Last Time

Patrol Officers are the Backbone of Law Enforcement

So much time and money spent on big crimes.

Drugs
Burglary
Traffic (DWI, DUI)
Gangs

All important problems, no doubt
There is a lack of understanding in Law Enforcement about Environmental Crimes.

Not everyone sees the importance.

In Fact, Illegal Dumping cost Tax Payers $1,000’s of dollars each year.
Example

Tarrant County dedicates approximately $387,899 to its illegal dumping cleanup, enforcement and education/outreach efforts.

Approximately 51 percent of that budget is directed at clean-up activities,

39 percent of the budget is dedicated to environmental enforcement,

10 percent of the budget is applied to education and outreach activities,

Source: NCTCOG
2003 Cost/Benefits Analysis Study
Educating the Patrol Officer

“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.”

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards & Education (TCLEOSE)

Requires minimum 40 hrs. of training every 2 years (certain classes are mandatory)
Training Opportunities

1) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
   CELE Training  (Criminal Environmental Law Enforcement)

2) Texas Environmental Law Enforcement Assn.
   Next level of training above CELE

3) Environmental Protection Agency
   Advanced Environmental Crimes Training Program
   (must be nominated and meet certain criteria)
Local Training

- Brazos River Authority
- Hosted several Law Enforcement Training Classes
- Support from Lower Colorado River Authority
This doesn't mean:

- A waste hauler dumping produced water
- TCEQ sets standards for the release of chlorides into waters of the state.
- Llano River's permitted level 1480 mg/l of chlorides.
- Different salinity may have different levels.
Topics Covered:

- Texas Health & Safety Code
- Texas Water Code
- Outdoor Burning
- Evidence Collecting
- Building a Prosecutors Notebook
Additional Training

- Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center
- John H. Ockels, Ph.D Director
- www.tidrc.org

- "Illegal Dumping Enforcement Training"
  8 hours credit
  Greenville, March 10
  Amarillo, April 23 - Free

- "Foreclosure and Property Enforcement"
  6 hours credit
  Greenville, April 14

- "Coordinated Local Environmental Enforcement"
  6 hours credit
  Sherman, Apr 17 - Free
Conclusion

• The Training is Available.

• Law Enforcement is required to have training.

• The bottom Line:

• Is it cheaper to Prevent or Repair?
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