

Scrap Tire NEWS

Covering The News And Developments In The Scrap Tire Recycling Industry

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FL, CA Take Aim At Exports

Two states feeling the effects of large-scale export activities that are diverting millions of scrap tires from domestic markets have introduced legislation to shore up their scrap tire rules and stem the tide. At the same time more states are reporting an increase in permit requests from individuals and companies for export-related activities such as baling.

In Florida, HB663, a committee/sub-committee hearing bill introduced last month would amend the state's waste tire requirements, making it unlawful to dispose of waste tires or processed tires in the state except at a permitted solid waste management facility.

Specifically, the amendment clarifies the role of scrap tire collection and storage activi-

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Leveraging Technology & Teamwork: *Liberty Tire Boosts Safety and Product Quality with Dust Collection System*

By Meg Thornton

"Tire recycling – It's just in the nature of our business that rubber dust and airborne fiber will be a challenge," states Mark Patterson, Director of Safety and Training, Liberty Tire Recycling, Pittsburgh, PA. "Our challenges are further compounded by the regulatory environment for a 'green' industry devoted to recycling a product that intrinsically has challenging characteristics," he continues.

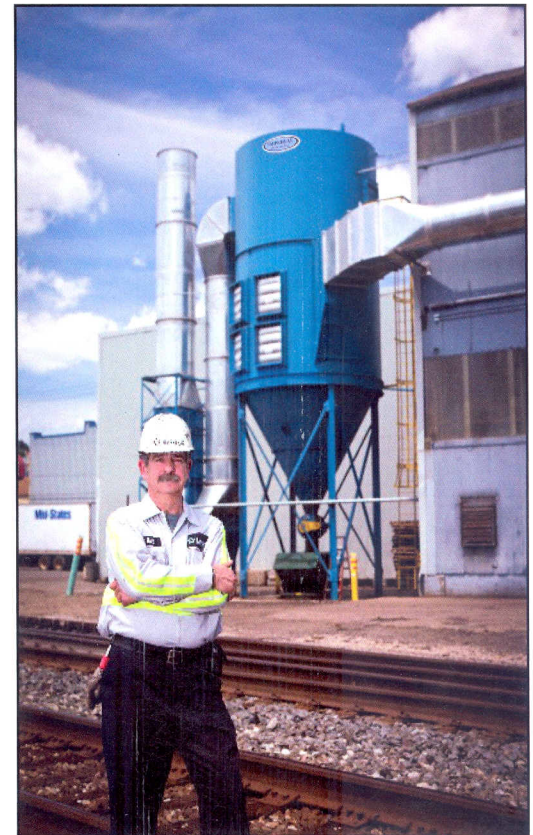
At the start of this process, Mark says, "Liberty began looking at safety issues in other industries about three years ago, and we saw the need for substantial improvement in our own dust collection, and air pollution control strategies." He adds, "With safety, we intend to be proactive."

Identifying Targets and Teams

According to Mark, it took high-level commitment within the company to launch the new dust collection initiative. "Once we focused on the health and safety concerns related to air quality, and considered the pressure to improve fire protection by eliminating combustible dust, the argument for new dust collection systems became compelling for Liberty," Mark reports.

This decision was also aligned with Liberty's corporate policy of continuously upgrading technology to ensure safety, and to enhance the work environment for employees. As a result, Mark says, more resources were made available, and "we embarked on a lot of research and engineering assessments – it was a steep learning curve for everybody involved."

After reviewing criteria for a beta-site, the Liberty Tire crumb rubber processing facility in Braddock, PA, (Pittsburgh area), was selected as an ideal "incubator", in Mark's words, for engineering, designing, and fine-tuning a rubber dust and fiber collection system that could potentially be replicated within other Liberty operations.



Bill Sharkey, Operations Manager, with the Imperial Systems "BRF" Baghouse installation, Liberty Tire, Braddock, PA; photo by: Marc Soracco.

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