

Burning of Hazardous Waste

What is hazardous waste?

Hazardous waste in the Cook Islands is mostly made from industrial manufacturing processes in the form of liquids, solids, gasses and sludges.

What are the types of hazardous waste in the Cook Islands?

The types of hazardous wastes include: medical waste, e-waste, batteries, chemicals, sewage, sludge and other products from facilities and treatment plants.

What are examples of hazardous waste that are mostly reported to have been burnt?

The common examples of hazardous wastes mostly reported to NES include; vehicle tyres, vehicles, plastics including black polystyrene, medical wastes and batteries.

Is burning hazardous waste an offence in the Cook Islands?

Burning of hazardous waste is an offence in the Cook Islands. The Public Health Act 2004 prohibits the burning of all forms of plastic waste and tyres unless authorised by Te Marae Ora - Ministry of Health.

Why is burning hazardous waste dangerous?

Burning of hazardous waste releases highly toxic chemicals into the air, soil and oceans. It is dangerous and capable of harming human health and the environment.

What can we do to stop burning hazardous waste?

- We can adopt best environmental practices in our homes and workplaces;
- Reduce our use of hazardous products by choosing other less toxic alternatives;
- Seek advice from NES or TMO on the disposal methods if you are not sure.

Who can you call if you see burning of hazardous waste?

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