

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN (RDOS)



INFORMATION RELEASE

September 8, 2016

Contractors Seeing Big Bills at Landfill

Contractors are seeing big bills at local landfills due to rocks and debris in yard and wood waste. Rocks in yard and wood waste have the potential to damage wood chipping equipment. Consequences include broken blades, jammed equipment and the potential for serious injury.

Yard waste is subsidized at all landfills throughout the Regional District. Low prices encourage people not to burn. For any load of yard waste the first 500 kg / 1100 pounds is free of charge with larger loads charged \$50 a tonne. Due to less burning the air quality in local valleys has slowly improved. Yard and wood waste at landfills are chipped for composting, animal bedding and dust control at landfills.

Recently several loads of yard waste have been brought to local landfills containing rocks. Due to safety concerns the haulers were fined extra fees. The cost to customers went from hundreds of dollars to over a thousand dollars per load.

Don Hamilton, RDOS Solid Waste Facilities Supervisor, advises property owners be careful when land clearing.

“We’re seeing heavy equipment operators scrape rocks into loads of yard waste to save time,” explains Hamilton. “This puts people at our landfill at risk of serious harm if they don’t see stones or rocks when chipping. People could be seriously hurt if rocks hit these powerful moving blades. Ensuring heavy equipment operators keep rocks and other debris out of yard and wood waste will save their customers money.”

Residents with any questions on landfill fees can call the Regional District Solid Waste group at 250-490-4129.

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For further information, please contact the RDOS Solid Waste group at 250-492-0237 or info@rdos.bc.ca.



Mark Pendergraft, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen