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**ARCHIVED PUBLICATION** - The links to stories below work; however, other links on this page and on the story pages may no longer function.

## Natural **OUTLOOK**

See Also:

[Past Issues](#)

*Natural Outlook* is the TNRCC's quarterly publication of environmental issues in Texas. Below is the Web version of our latest issue for your viewing.

If you would like a free subscription of the hard copy edition, please e-mail us at [ac@tnrcc.state.tx.us](mailto:ac@tnrcc.state.tx.us)

### Winter 2000 Issue

#### Environmental Crimestoppers

[State and local investigators prove that pollution doesn't pay](#)



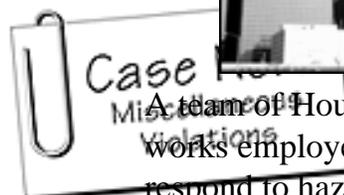
Regulatory and law enforcement agencies are using a full arsenal of sleuthing techniques to track down offenders who commit crimes against the environment. These coordinated efforts began with the recognition that intentional damage to the environment is a serious threat to the public's health and safety and should be treated as a criminal offense. The TNRCC leads a multi-agency task force that's been responsible for 90 convictions and \$29 million in assessed penalties.

### Environmental Crimestoppers Case Studies

Since formation of the Texas Environmental Enforcement Task

Force in the early 1990s, investigators have obtained convictions of individual and corporations. Here are five examples of their work nabbing polluters.

### Local Agencies Pursue Violators



A team of Houston police officers and public works employees are on call 24 hours a day to respond to hazardous environmental situations, ranging from chemical spills to the dumping of solid waste.

## **COMBATTING POLLUTION**

### Armed forces mobilize the troops to curb waste

The TNRCC is working with branches of the military that have joined ranks to conduct environmental protection and cleanup programs. The Texas Pollution Prevention Partnership (TxP3) has been recognized nationally as being the largest cooperative pollution prevention venture between any state and branches of the service.

## [Base Cleanup Strategies](#)

### **Military activity and training require high energy use**

Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene has eliminated 520,000 pounds of hazardous waste and 1.1 million pounds of nonhazardous waste a year with pollution prevention measures.

## [Preparing for Dry Times](#)

With yet another year of drought predicted, the TNRCC is working with small and medium-size retail water utilities to meet a September deadline for completion of their drought contingency plans. Workshops are being held around the state.



## [Properties Come Clean](#)

### **Voluntary Cleanup Program helps return properties to productive uses**

A TNRCC program is helping brownfields find a new lease on life. These industrial or commercial sites that had been abandoned or underused because of environmental contamination or the perception of contamination are being restored for productivity under the Voluntary Clean Program.

## [Backlog Wiped Out](#)

After the TNRCC obtained authority to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program, the agency handled some 4,000 applications over a 15-month period. By January 2000, the entire backlog of permit applications had been eliminated.

## [Natural Resource Topics Under Examination](#)

The TNRCC is participating in several interim legislative studies on topics such as clean air, water availability, and waste disposal. The studies are being conducted for the next legislative session in 2001.



## [Environmental Violations Hot Line](#)

The TNRCC has established a new toll-free telephone line to receive reports of environmental violations.

The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/00-1.

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