



18 April 2017

Media Statement

Hefty fine for dumped firefighting powder

A 74-year-old Camillo man has been fined \$15,000 in Armadale Magistrates Court today, after illegally dumping powder from around 20 fire extinguishers acquired through his Cuballing fire safety business.

Vaurn Stuart Reid Cornish was questioned by investigators from the Department of Environment Regulation's (DER) Illegal Dumping Program, after two witnesses photographed the incident at Curtis Road in Bedfordale on 8 December 2015.

Onsite cameras also captured Mr Cornish's Nissan Pathfinder transporting several large plastic tubs containing the fire extinguisher powder, usually used on electrical and oil fires, in the rear of his vehicle.

Mr Cornish, who failed to appear in court, was found guilty in his absence by Magistrate Lawrence and ordered to pay \$742.50 in court costs. In addition, Mr Cornish was ordered to pay \$2872.24 for the clean-up and disposal undertaken by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

DER Senior Manager Investigations Matt Warnock said the conviction was an example of how members of the community could assist the Department's Illegal Dumping Program—which conducts around 200 illegal dumping investigations annually and monitors covert surveillance across our State.

"This offender made no efforts to safely dispose of this firefighting powder," said Mr Warnock.

"Instead we saw a man, who has been in charge of a fire extinguisher maintenance and installation business for around 15 years, illegally dump the powder—putting public health and the environment at risk.

"We are just fortunate that no members of the public came into contact with the powder, which can be hazardous if handled."

Mr Warnock said he would like to thank those who assisted the Department in its investigation.

"Through the quick thinking and actions of the witnesses at the scene, and their efforts afterwards to report the incident, we were able to mount a case and obtain a conviction," he said.

"Illegal dumping is a serious offence and the Department will continue to take action against those with disregard for the law."

[Illegal dumping](#) can be reported to DER's 24-hour Pollution Watch Hotline on 1300 784 782 or pollutionwatch@der.wa.gov.au



Onsite camera image of the incident.



Dumped powder at the Bedforddale site.

Media contact: media@der.wa.gov.au

Tel: 0437 228 870