



## SUMMER SIGNALS MOVING SEASON SO REMEMBER TO “COVER YOUR LOAD”

### *Waste Management and Don't mess with Texas® Team Up To Prevent Accidental Litter, Highway Hazards*

**AUSTIN, June 10, 2014**– Summer signals moving season and that means more trucks and trailers on Texas highways bringing debris to area landfills. Waste Management, partnering with the Texas Department of Transportation’s [Don't mess with Texas®](#) campaign, reminds drivers to “cover your load” to keep litter and heavy objects from falling off trucks and trailers.

The population of Texas grew more than any other state in 2013, with an increase of almost 400,000, and recent [Census Bureau data](#) reports that eight of the 15 fastest-growing large U.S. cities and towns are in Texas, with Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth adding the most.

With all the people moving to Texas, Waste Management’s “Cover Your Load” campaign reminds everyone to properly tarp their trucks and trailers when hauling debris to landfills to prevent accidental litter and highway hazards. The week of June 9, Waste Management will distribute Don't mess with Texas litter bags and tips on how to properly tarp trucks and trailers to customers at its Austin Community Landfill in Austin and Atascocita Landfill in Humble, as well as at the Williamson County Landfill and City of Temple Landfill, both of which Waste Management operates.

With the summer moving season underway, Waste Management provides the following “Cover Your Load” tips:

- Use a tarp big enough to completely cover your trailer or truck bed — a *minimum of four inches* should overlap the sides, front and back of your load.
- Tightly secure the tarp with ropes, bungee cords, netting or straps.
- Put lighter items at the bottom of the load.
- When transporting large items, make sure they are tied down and secured to the truck or trailer so they don't move.
- A tarp is not required if the debris is completely enclosed by a load-carrying compartment.
- Make sure your truck or trailer bed does not have a hole, crack or other opening where debris can escape.
- Don't overload — keep material level with the truck bed or trailer.
- Before leaving the landfill, remove any loose material that may remain in the trailer or truck bed.



In Texas, failing to cover your load to prevent materials from escaping by blowing or spilling out of your trucks or trailers is against the law and carries a fine of up to \$200 for the first offense. Waste Management charges landfill customers an additional fee if their trucks are not securely tarped

“When bringing debris to the landfill, it’s important to ‘cover your load’ so litter or heavier items don’t accidentally fall out and pollute the roads, or worse, cause a highway accident,” says James Smith, Waste Management district landfill manager.

“We need to continue to increase awareness about unintentional debris that can fly out of a truck bed or trailer just like we remind people not to intentionally litter,” said Margo Richards, TxDOT’s Travel Information Division Director. “We want to prevent all types of litter from ending up on Texas roadways, regardless of how it gets there.”

Waste Management has partnered with Don’t mess with Texas on its ‘Cover Your Load’ educational campaign since 2004. TxDOT’s Don’t mess with Texas litter prevention campaign has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. For more information, visit [www.dontmesswithtexas.org](http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org).

###

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Denise Clarke  
Waste Management  
512.899.0004, 512.587.5879 (m)  
denise@deniseclarkePR.com

Don’t mess with Texas  
TxDOT Media Relations  
512.463-8700

**About Waste Management**

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Our subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. We are also the largest residential recycler and a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy facilities in the United States. Our customers include residential, commercial, industrial and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more about Waste Management, visit [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) or [www.thinkgreen.com](http://www.thinkgreen.com).

**About Don't mess with Texas®**

TxDOT’s litter prevention program includes the Adopt-a-Highway Volunteer program and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful. Don’t mess with Texas activities also include a spring “Trash-Off” and community outreach. For more information, visit [www.dontmesswithtexas.org](http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org). Don’t mess with Texas is registered trademark owned by the Texas Department of Transportation.



Don't  
mess with  
Texas

**Texas Department of Transportation**

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 11,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov). "Like" us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/txdot](http://www.facebook.com/txdot); and follow us on Twitter, [www.twitter.com/txdot](http://www.twitter.com/txdot).