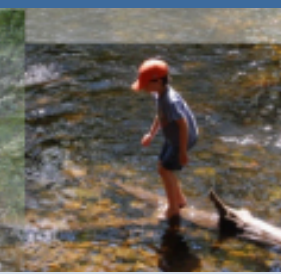




Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Illegal Dumping & Vehicle Forfeiture

Date: October 22, 2019

Presented by: Laurene Buckowski

Program: Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division

Event: Solid Waste Advisory Committee



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Vehicle Forfeiture Statute

[§22a-250a](#) of the CGS - **Forfeiture of vehicles used in violation of certain environmental laws.**

- Any vehicle used as a means of committing a violation of any of the provisions of CGS §§22a-208a, 22a-208c, 22a-250(c) or (d), or 22a-252 may be seized and subject to forfeiture.



Education & Outreach



Photo: Naugatuck Police Photo

Police: Illegal dumping a 'criminal matter' - By Lisa Backus/CT Post

“NAUGATUCK - Police are seeking help from the public in identifying the man who illegally put items in a dumpster at a local park June 4. The man left the items sometime in the morning in the dumpster at Peter J. Foley Little League park. The man, who was captured on video, was driving a silver Chevy Silverado with a Tonneau cover.

Police are pursuing the illegal dumping as a “**criminal matter.**”

Police did not disclose exactly what was dumped....”

From <<https://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Police-Illegal-dumping-a-criminal-matter-13967470.php>>



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From Education To Action

Naugatuck Police Department

“On August 20, 2019 Chang Zou (Age 30) and Yu Xiang Zheng (Age 24) voluntarily surrendered at Naugatuck Police Headquarters after learning that we held outstanding warrants for their arrest.

The warrants stemmed from an incident on August 16, 2019 in which the accused were observed by a concerned citizen discharging oil into the wetlands behind the area of 444 Rubber Avenue from a commercial vehicle. During the ensuing investigation launched in conjunction with the Connecticut DEEP it was determined that the suspects had in fact discharged cooking oil into the area. It was further learned that the suspects had stolen the oil from another business on Rubber Avenue and were discharging it after the initial theft. The investigation determined that the environmental impact was minimal after remediation efforts were made at the scene.

The suspects were identified as a result of efforts led by Officer Rebecca St. George and warrants were obtained for the following charges:

22a-438(c)*- Knowingly Violating the Water Pollution Control laws

22a-250(a) - Littering Violation

53a-125b - Larceny in the 6th Degree

53a-48 & 53a-125b - Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 6th Degree

Furthermore, **the vehicle used to commit these crimes, a 2006 International 4000 Series, was seized....”**

http://naugatuckpd.org/filestorage/230/666/3492/1900018472_Pollution.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1iiPs3YLp6kwccHgo1hzFOqu5Y9r0JEmfeA3nrwQrULLjRd6p5hDDT_8Q



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Team Effort

- Naugatuck Police Department
 - Investigate and develop the case.
- Office of the Attorney General.
 - Working with the Naugatuck Police Department, the Office of the Attorney General identified the owner of the box truck.
 - Brought the complaint to court and obtained a hearing date.
 - On August 23, 2019 the owner of the box truck was served a vehicle forfeiture summons.
- Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
 - Staff was prepared to testify at the hearing:
 - Material was solid waste
 - Site was not permitted to receive solid waste



Resolution

- Office of the Attorney General secured a \$7,000 fine from the owner of the box truck.
- This fine resolves the seizure of the vehicle used in violation of environmental laws.
- The \$7,000 fine will go to a fund in the Borough of Naugatuck that will combat illegal dumping and blight.



Questions?

All of the enforcement information about using CGS 22a-250 may be found on the DEEP Website – “illegal dumping”

Or you can call WEED’s Compliance Assistance Program at 1-888-424-4193

