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For Immediate Release

Public Haz Mat Day Removes Over 8 Tons of Waste

Oro Valley, Ariz. (April 14, 2008)--Tennessee Ernie Ford's "Sixteen Tons" might have been a bit too much, but Oro Valley residents brought out more than eight tons of household hazardous waste to the Naranja Town Site for disposal during the annual Haz Mat Day. The town of Oro Valley, working with Pima County's department of Environmental Quality, partnered for a public dumping day on March 18.

According to the town's Special Projects Coordinator Scott Nelson, residents brought in 17,049 pounds of hazardous materials. These included 9,250 pounds of paint, 2000 pounds of used motor oil, 850 pounds of pesticides and 840 pounds of auto batteries.

"We also collected 700 pounds of aerosol products, 600 pounds of flammable liquids and 700 pounds of soap and wax," he added.

The town and county employees were assisted by a team of volunteers who directed traffic and helped to unload and separate out the various household items. The collected items will be disposed of by Pima County in accordance with state and federal guidelines so that the materials do not end up in landfills where they have the potential to seep into the ground and contaminate the water supply.

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