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# Trashing the desert can cost litterbugs big money

## Fines for dumping range from \$900 to \$6,000 per violation

By [Tiffany Gibson](#) ([contact](#))

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The Southern Nevada Health District gave a presentation at the Boulder City Council meeting Tuesday night to educate residents and businesses about the sanctions associated with desert trash dumping.

Councilwoman Linda Strickland asked for the presentation after finding several dump sites around Boulder City.

"I wanted to let them (residents) know there are laws against illegal dumping, and financial awards (given) to alert the health district," Strickland said.

Environmental Health Manager Dennis Campbell said violators can be fined from \$900 to \$6,000 for each violation. Witnesses who report desert dumping and testify at a hearing receive \$100 after a violator's fines are paid, he said.

The Southern Nevada Health District receives an average of 1,800 desert dumping complaints from Clark County residents annually, Campbell said. There were 25 complaints last year from Boulder City, he said.

Strickland said there's no reason to dump trash in the desert when the city has a landfill that Boulder City residents can use for free. "You can see areas where people have left different things. It's dirty," she said.

Beth Barrie, project manager of the Don't Trash Nevada campaign, said most of the desert trash found in Boulder City is from recreational activities such as boating and target shooting.

"People will take TVs out there and shoot at them and leave them there," she said.

It's just as easy to take garbage to the landfill as it is to dump it in the desert, Barrie said.

"These people are taking the time to load it up and take it somewhere to dump it, so why not load it up and take it to a transfer station?" Barrie said. "A lot of people care about the land but when people step up and care for it, it's nice to see."

Residents can call the Southern Nevada Health District at (702) 759-0600 to report illegal dumping. Anyone interested in volunteering for Don't Trash Nevada cleanup dates can register online at [dontrashnevada.org](http://dontrashnevada.org).

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