



"Trashy neighbor"

Your neighbor has a few acres of land behind his house and is always doing something. He built a small addition on the back of his house. He has a few old cars that he likes to work on. Instead of getting a dumpster for unused scrap wood from his addition and other projects, he has frequent bon-fires. On occasion you have seen him throwing a lot of trash, car parts, liquids, and other items into the fire to get rid of them. You think he should be using a dumpster or taking the trash to an appropriate place to be disposed of. Who knows what kinds of fumes are escaping into the air from his burning trash pile.

- Why is backyard burning considered hazardous?

*Burning trash releases potentially toxic fumes into the air.
Burning trash can also start forest fires.*

- Is your neighbor in violation of a law? How could you determine if he is?

*Clean Air Act
Possibly local town ordinance against backyard burning*

- Would you contact the authorities first or would you go over and talk to your neighbor about the fires?

Student's answers may vary depending on their personal opinions. Some may indicate that they would talk to their neighbor first, especially if they were friends with them. Depending on the response from the neighbor, the authorities could be called.

- If you were to contact someone, who would it be?

Contact the local police or park service.