



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
Feb. 7, 2011

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### **North Dakota Auto Recyclers Encouraged to Remove Mercury Switches**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is encouraging auto salvage yards and scrap metal recycling facilities to participate in the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program (NVMSRP).

The safe disposal of mercury is a growing concern across the country. Improper disposal of mercury-containing products can release the toxic substance into the environment. Mercury was used in light switches and antilock braking systems in many vehicles manufactured before model year 2003. During the steel smelting of scrap vehicles, mercury can be released into the air where it can cause pollution hazards and human health risks. NVMSRP provides an easy way for automobile recyclers and crushers to remove mercury-containing switches prior to smelting.

The NVMSRP was created through a 2006 agreement among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Iron & Steel Institute, Automotive Recyclers Association, Ecology Center, Environmental Council of States, Environmental Defense, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the Steel Manufacturers Association, and End of Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS). As part of the agreement, ELVS provides education to promote vehicle recycling and proper management of mercury switches, including collection and recycling.

In cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Health, ELVS supplies vehicle recyclers with collection buckets and will pay the costs of transportation, retorting/recycling, or disposal of elemental mercury from the automotive switches.

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Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).

To request new buckets or replacement buckets for recycling automotive mercury switches:

1. Call 734.547.2511.
2. Leave a message stating you want a replacement bucket and the bucket size (small or large).
3. Provide your company name, shipping address and phone number.

For questions about this program, contact Dave Cameron or Christy Smith, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5166 or visit the ELVS website at [www.elvsolutions.org](http://www.elvsolutions.org).

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