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Arizona Department of Weights Measures Consumer Tip of the Month 2003-2004 Story Schedule

Special Reports are scheduled on their own timeline and press releases will be sent to all media when appropriate.

Air Date & Media Reach	Story Name	Tie In & Story Idea	Shooting Location	Consumer Tips (possible graphics)
July-03	Don't Get Smoked When Buying Propane	TIE IN: 4th of JULY. Discussion with ADWM about buying propane + a safety demonstration with the Az Propane Association.	Propane Company	1) Shop around - Not all retail sites have a "minimum buy" requirement. Minimum buy example: you have a ½ filled 10-gallon propane container. The retailer requires a minimum purchase of 10 gallons at \$4.00 per gallon. You would be charged an extra \$20 (5 gallons worth) for propane you did not receive due to the minimum buy requirement. 2) Know the method of sale - propane can be sold by weight or by measure. If a retailer sells it by weight they are required to have a license and NTEP approved scale. 3) When refilling a container only pay for the product not the container it comes in - When refilling partially filled containers, weigh the partially filled container first. Once the container is filled, reweigh and subtract the partially filled container weight. SHOW SAFETY TIPS.
August-03	Are Our Kids Getting Enough Milk?	TIE IN: KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL. An inspection of accurate milk packaging at milk packers and schools will be conducted on the 3 rd week of August. ADWM will provide the inspection results and can also demonstrate how the tests were conducted.	Milk Packer or school cafeteria	For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or to learn more, visit www.weights.az.gov .
August-03	Don't Get Weighed Down When You Travel	TIE IN: VACATION. Many airlines charge additional fees when your suitcase weighs over a certain amount. These scales are inspected and licensed by ADWM and there are fee posting and scale requirements that must be followed. ADWM wants to inform the public about what to look for when using airport luggage scales.	Sky harbor or In Studio	1) Look for weight requirements and fees for excess weight. 2) Make sure the scale reads 0 before you put your luggage on the scale. 3) Look for the Weights & Measures green & white inspection sticker. 3) Watch the display as they weigh your luggage. 4) If you don't see a posted price's for additional fees or if you believe a scale is inaccurate call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit us at www.weights.az.gov for more info.
September-03	Is a 2X4 a 2X4? What you need to know before you build.	Inform the public about the different size allowances of building material including tile.	Hardware store	1) Always pre-measure your project and existing materials such as studs and drywall widths. Widths and other dimensions of product may change over time. 2) Bring a measuring tape with you when you purchase wood or tile. Don't rely on sizes printed by the manufacturer - measure the product yourself. 3) Check your receipt before you accept any material that is delivered. For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or to learn more, visit www.weights.az.gov .
September 26, 2002 ALL MEDIA (if there is a problem)	Is Your Grass Sprouting Extra Costs?	TIE IN - FALL GRASS PLANTING SEASON. ADWM inspection results for winter rye grass and fertilizer. Include buying tips for landscaping.	Nursery	1) When buying nursery stock items make sure there is a price either on or near the plants being sold. 2) ALWAYS check for holes in bagged fertilizers or grass seed. 3) Look for a label on the package or on or near the nursery stock that tells you what you are getting. For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit us at www.weights.az.gov .
October-02	Size Matters: Buying In Bulk	Do you really get more for your money when you buy the economy size box of cereal or family pack of chicken? ADWM will talk about how much consumers save or don't save when it comes to buying in bulk.	Warehouse Store	1) Bring a calculator with you when you shop. 2) Always look for the per ounce price or unit price on packages. 3) To compare divide the total price by the number of ounces to find the per ounce price. If a store has a per ounce price or unit price listed on a display sign and you discover that it is incorrect, notify the store manager. For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit us at www.weights.az.gov to learn about measurement conversions.
November-02	Don't Get Fooled By Your Holiday Fowl: Pay for the turkey and not its packaging material!	TIE IN - THANKSGIVING. ADWM will demonstrate an inspection for the net content/weight of poultry to ensure shoppers are getting what they pay for. Provide shoppers with shopping tips.	Grocery store	1) Look for the net weight written on the turkey label (if it's the same as the gross weight, you're paying for the packaging). 2) Ask the store to weigh the package to verify the weight. Make sure the scale reads 0 before the turkey is placed on it. 3) Watch for items such as gravy packets included in the turkey package - you'll be paying for gravy at the turkey price/pound! For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit us at www.weights.az.gov . We'll check it out!
November 28, 2002 ALL MEDIA SPECIAL REPORT (Pre-tape)	The Good, The Bad And The Ugly 2002 UPC Scanning Results	TIE IN - DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING - BUSIEST SHOPPING DAY OF YEAR. Provide a list of the UPC inspection results and provide consumers with money saving shopping tips.	Store with highest compliance rate	1) Write down prices - ask for a marker. 2) Watch the display at the checkout counter. 3) Check your receipt before you leave the store. 4) If an error occurs, ask for the WRITTEN scanning error policy - all retailers are required to have one. 5) To check out how accurate your store is, visit www.weights.az.gov . For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit us at www.weights.az.gov . We'll check it out!

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December-02	Holiday Shipping Tips	TIE IN - CHRISTMAS. ADWM will demonstrate how they check shipping scales and discuss what consumers should beware of when shipping their holiday packages.	Shipping Site	1) Ask how items are priced (by weight or size). Note: Arizona does not regulate how this service prices items. 2) Know what the minimum fees are. 3) Make sure the scale reads "0" before the package is placed on it. 4) If possible make sure the scale is level. 5) Look for ADWM's seal on the scale. 6) Watch the scale display as the package is being weighed. If you think there is a problem with the scale, call us at (602) 255-5211 or to learn more visit www.weights.az.gov .
December 19, 2002 SPECIAL REPORT	Where's the Price? Price Posting Inspection Results for 2002	TIE IN - CHRISTMAS. Reveal the year's price posting inspection results and provide a top 10 list of the stores who did the best and worst when it comes to pricing. Also provide a list of stores that received civil penalties this year. Give consumers smart shopping tips.	Store with highest compliance rate	1) All stores are required to have a price either posted near or on the products they are selling. If you cannot find a price notify the manager. If you're not satisfied, call us at (602) 255-5211. 2) All display signs must be 3/8th of an inch and in bold print. If a sign is on the bottom shelf of a display it needs to be angled up so you can read it. 3) If an item is marked down by a percentage, the original price needs to be either on the sign or on the item. Visit us at www.weights.az.gov for the price posting results of your favorite stores.
January-04	What's a cord? Firewood shopping tips	Demonstrate the proper method of sale for firewood and provide buying tips to viewers.	Firewood Retailer	1) Firewood must be sold by the cord, fraction of cord or cubic feet but NOT by the rick. 2) When buying a cord of firewood, measure the stack and multiply the Length X Width X Height (in feet). If it equals 128, you have a full cord. Visit our Consumer Stop at www.weights.az.gov to learn about illegal stacking methods and more tips on firewood or call us at (602) 255-5211.
February 15, 2003 SPECIAL REPORT	Gem Show Results	TIE IN - WORLD'S LARGEST GEMMINERAL SHOW. Results from the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show & Quartzsite show - visual - confiscated scales.	In Studio	1) Check the scale! Make sure there is NOT a label on the scale that reads, "NOT LEGAL FOR TRADE." 2) Produce estimating scales, bathroom, and baby scales are NOT legal for trade! 3) Look for the Department of Weights and Measures inspection seal on the scale and ask to see the dealer's license for the device. 4) Make sure you can see the scale display and that it reads 0 before anything is placed on it. If you are at the show and believe an illegal scale is being used, call us at (602) 255-5211 or 1-800-277-6675.
March 10, 2004 ALL MEDIA SPECIAL REPORT	Weights & Measures Anniversary	TIE IN - 202nd Weights & Measures Anniversary-proclamation by governor of Weights & Measures Week. Overview of the history and current responsibilities of ADWM. Event- teaching kids about the regulatory verses the retail side of business. Grad school students at a grocery store learning about W&M.	Grocery store	UPC, Tare, Method of sale and Price Posting - Tip to be forwarded.
March-04	Is a pint a pint and a quart a quart?	TIE IN - St. Patrick's Day. Gov's Ofc. of Highway Safety will talk about DUI. ADWM will demonstrate how we inspect beer volume and provide inspection results.	In Studio	Governor's Office of Highway Safety will provide safe driving tips.
April-04	Fuel Quality - The change is here!	TIE IN - Fuel Oxygenate Seasonal Change. Inform the public about the changes and provide them with gasoline quality tips.	C-Store or Tank Farm	1) April 1- October 31 (Maricopa County) gasoline must have up to 15% Ether (MTBE) added to the gas. From November 1- March 31, 10% Ethanol is added to the gas. 2) Don't top off. 3) Tune-ups affect car performance. 4) Car manuals only show an estimate of the size of your gas tank. 5) Use the "octane" specified by the manufacturer. If your car sputters or dies immediately after you fill up your tank, call us at (602) 255-5211 or to learn more, visit www.weights.az.gov .
May-03	Don't Let Your Rock Roll Your Checkbook	TIE IN - IN SPRING PLANTING & GRAVEL INSPECTION UPDATE. Inspection results and consumer buying tips for buying rock and gravel.	Gravel Company	1) Buy in Person! Watch them weigh your rock and make sure the scale reads "0" before they weigh it. 2) When buying in bulk make sure it is sold by the exact weight and not by the truckload, scoop and/or approximation. 3) Beware of "split weighing" IT'S ILLEGAL! 4) Get a receipt with the following information: Name and address of the company, date delivered, quantity delivered and the quantity in which the price is based, description of the product, product price by exact weight and the total price including any delivery fees. For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit us at www.weights.az.gov .
May 19, 2003 SPECIAL REPORT	BEWARE! Animal Feed Sacks my not be Packed	Story idea 1: Inspection results for animal feed. ADWM will demonstrate inspection procedures for feed. Story idea 2: Partner with Dept of Agriculture, ranchers and/or 4-H group and discuss the impact of feed shortages.	3 options: In Studio, Packer or Farm	N/A until story angle is determined by station.
June-04	Your scrap might be worth more than you think!	Provide the public with recycling tips and inspection results.	Recycling Scale location	1) Check the scale for "0" prior to placing any items on it. 2) Look for the posted prices by weight. 3) Make sure there is no tare taken for product that isn't weighed in a container.

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7/14/2004 SPECIAL REPORT	Don't Be Taken For A Ride! Look for the new Taxi Cab Sticker	TIE IN - NEW TAXI STICKERS & New Law. Consumer alert about ADWM's annual taxi sticker change. ADWM will also demonstrate how taximeters are checked for accuracy and provide consumers with tips.	At Studio with Taxi cab company available	1) Look for the yellow taxi license sticker in the rear window of the taxi before you get in. This means the Department licensed the taxi. 2) To see when the cab was last tested for accuracy look the Departments Blue & White inspection sticker. 3) Make sure the meter reads 0 before you go for a ride 4) Always check the posted price before you go for a ride. 5) If you see a taxi without a sticker, contact the Arizona Department of Weights & Measures at (602) 255-5211 or to learn more, visit www.weights.az.gov .

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SPECIAL				
SUMMER	Picnic Fixings	ADWM will provide inspection results for packers of tortillas, potato chips and beverages. ADWM will talk about method of sale and demonstrate how consumers can make sure they're not paying for tare (packaging material).	Grocery store or in studio	1) Don't pay for the paper or container of deli products. 2) Check the net weight of the product and then weigh it on a certified scale. If the product weighs the same or less then the net weight you are paying for packaging material. 3) Count the number of packaged items if sold by count. For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or to learn more, visit www.weights.az.gov .
BACK TO SCHOOL	How to Protect Yourself When Shopping On-line	TIE IN - KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL. Is buying on-line a good deal? It can be if you know your rights BEFORE you buy. The Department would like to notify the public about their rights when they shop on-line and inform them about some misleading practices they have found.	In Studio	1) Print out a receipt at the time you purchase the product on-line. 2) Make sure the information contains the following: company name, location and phone number, product name, quantity purchased, amount of product in each package, and all charges. 3) Check the delivery receipt and compare it to your printed order receipt. 4) Be a comparative shopper. Is the cost of the internet item + shipping better than a local purchase with tax? 5) Make sure any item sold by weight is what you received. For further information or concerns, call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit www.weights.az.gov .
BACK TO SCHOOL	Avoid Moving Woes	Tie In: College Kids Back to school / snow birds. Discuss how to avoid moving company scams	Weighmaster	Do: 1) Check out the company before you sign anything. 2) Know the method of sale and all charges before you sign a contract. 3) Personally transport all credit cards, bank statements, blank and canceled checks, and any other bills that have personal information. 4) Be present when the certified weighmasters weigh your merchandise. Things to check: The person weighing your merchandise is a licensed weighmaster. Contact the Department of Weights and Measures at (602) 255-5211. Be present during the weighing process. Make sure the moving company does not charge you for the truck weight. Have the company weigh the truck without your merchandise on it. Get a certified weight ticket for your records. Make sure the weight ticket has a weighmasters seal. Don't: 1) Sign a contract for cash only 2) Don't make final payment until after the weight has been established. 3) Don't make final payment with cash or check, use a credit card.
SNOW BIRD SEASON	Door-to-door isn't always more!	Inform the public about door-to-door meat sales inspection results and required literature.	In Studio	1) Check the terms of the contract - making sure you can rescind it during a specified period if you change your mind. 2) Don't buy any products that are not clearly labeled with the net weight. 3) Check for an unusual quantity of ice crystals. You may be paying for that! 4) Ask for a brochure and make sure the price per pound is shown.
ANYTIME	Is tare foreign to you?	Special Report on Imported Products.		N/A until story angle is determined by station.
SPRING PLANTING	Spring into action - know what to look for when buying landscaping materials	TIE IN - SPRING PLANTING SEASON. ADWM inspection results for Bermuda grass seed, fertilizer and nursery stock.	Nursery	1) When buying nursery stock items make sure there is a price either on or near the plants being sold. 2) When buying fertilizer and seed ALWAYS check for holes in the bag. 3) Nursery plants must have a sign on or near them identifying the plant and the container size.
ANYTIME	Is Time on Your Side? (How accurate are coin operated carwash & Laundromat devices?)	ADWM inspection results for timing devices and price posting: self serve car washes, Laundromats and parking garages. Department will demonstrate how time device inspections are conducted and provide consumers with tips on price posting.	Car Wash	1) Look for posted price. Before paying, ALWAYS look for a posted price that states how much time you will receive for the charged amount. For example: \$1 = 20 MINUTES. 2) Check the timing device. To make sure you are getting what you pay for, use a stopwatch or your wristwatch and check the time from start to finish. 3) If you don't see a posted price telling you how much time you are getting for your money or if you believe a timing device is inaccurate call us at (602) 255-5211 or visit us at www.weights.az.gov for more info.

Additional Ideas
 Moving Company Scams
 Travel Tips - Truck Stops