



PetroSA



Land Fill Fire – 14 April 2024⁵
Fuels Industry Petrochemical Fire Safety Committee



Fire on the Domestic Tipface (Landfill) 2024⁵

What happened?

Why did it happen?

What are the learnings?

Recommendations?



What happened?

- Domestic waste is clearly visible and not covered at the dump
- The fire reported as burning bottom up.
- Flames jumped over to vegetation.



Why did it happen?

Sub-standard Acts / At Risk Behaviours

- Inadequate compacting and covering of waste as stipulated in the landfill operation procedure exposed the dump to heat sources.

Sub-standard Conditions / At Risk Conditions

- The landfill machinery equipment capacity inadequate to handle the waste load activities
- Unreliable machinery equipment that failed frequently resulting in lack of compacting



Learnings

1. Years of operating with unreliable landfill equipment
2. The landfill machinery equipment is rated smaller compared to the benchmark requirements.
3. The lack of compaction of waste is not a direct cause of the fire but it would have prevented the fire.
4. Making use of MOU with Mossel Bay and Garden Route fire departments made it easier to effectively extinguish the fire water and ensured that the operation was adequately resourced with fire water and firefighters
5. Unavailability of the fire hydrants at the waste disposal site interrupted water supply for firefighting.
6. On getting notification of the fire, the Shift Manager applied the emergency procedure, promptly notifying the relevant and required stakeholders for quick response in ensuring that the fire was attended quickly preventing it from spreading over a large area.



Recommendations

1. The responsible Area Manager to enforce the landfill operation procedure on daily tasks of compacting and covering waste by utilizing equipment of suitable capacity
2. The Fire Chief to do analysis of the firefighting operation to identify any new strategies that worked / not worked to inform the emergency response



THANK YOU

Working Together, Building a Better PetroSA, Again.

