



Common Landfill Issues and Guidance



Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment is responsible for the regulation and compliance of more than 450 provincial landfills and transfer stations.

Every year, the ministry makes significant efforts to educate communities on proper landfill operations so that they are safe for residents and the community. This includes issuing permits.

Typical landfill permit conditions include ensuring site security (fencing), cover and compaction, monitoring, reporting, animal management plans and prohibition of certain types of wastes. Permits also include a ban on burning, except if approved for burning clean wood in a designated area away from other garbage.

The ministry conducts rotational inspections on operating landfills with priority given to those that pose a higher risk and have a past record of not complying with the conditions of the permit.

Saskatchewan's top four landfill issues include:

1. Not covering and compacting waste often enough, or in accordance with permit conditions.

Why is this an issue? This is a problem because frequent and adequate covering and compaction of waste helps reduce the spread of blown litter, reduces the chance of any fires spreading, reduces the attraction of wildlife to the site, helps reduce odour issues and increases the lifespan of the landfill (compaction).

2. Unlawful material in the wood burn pile.

Why is this an issue? The burning of waste other than non-painted or treated clean wood, lumber and brush is an unpermitted industrial activity.

Materials such as treated wood, plastics and rubber emit toxic substances when burned, and may create contaminated leachate that runs into surface waters and infiltrates ground water.

Allowing communities to burn clean wood, lumber and brush is permit-specific and some sites are not authorized for this activity. See your permit for specific details.

3. Unauthorized expansion such as construction/excavating of another waste cell, digging of trenches and pits, and filling in unused areas without proper approvals.

Why is this an issue? Expansions are a contravention of the regulations, unless they are authorized by a separate permit to construct. An "expansion" means a horizontal increase outside of the existing approved waste footprint, or a total increase in the designed waste disposal capacity.

Construction and operation of un-engineered waste cells may present a significant risk to the environment as they will not contain seepage barrier systems (liners) and leachate collection systems. Waste disposal cells and mounds need to be engineered

facilities that meet accepted standards.

4. Inadequate record keeping and site inspections as per permit.

Why is this an issue? As a permit requirement, this ensures the operators of waste disposal grounds are inspecting and documenting the condition and operation of their site on a regular basis.

This information will help maintain compliance with other operational conditions and provide valuable information for the long-term operation of the facility.

Through education and compliance, the ministry is hoping to reduce the frequency of these types of problems . . . and keep Saskatchewan beautiful for the future.

Ministry of Environment Inquiries

1-800-567-4224

(toll free in North America) or
306-787-2584

centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

Turn in Poachers and Polluters

Report unlawful landfill practices to our TIP line at
1-800-667-7561.

Learn from the Solid Waste Advisory Team

Saskatchewan has more waste disposal facilities per capita than any other Canadian jurisdiction. Amongst provinces, Saskatchewan also has the second highest waste disposal rate at 897 kilograms per person, while only 13 per cent of waste is diverted from landfills – the lowest rate in Canada. Through the Solid Waste Advisory Team, the Ministry of Environment works with stakeholders and municipalities to provide guidance and improve solid waste management in Saskatchewan.

Who we are

The Solid Waste Advisory Team is made up of representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Government Relations, SUMA, SARM, Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan, Supply Chain Management Association, and Saskatchewan towns and municipalities.

What we do

The Solid Waste Advisory Team works to address landfill issues and identify solutions to achieve sustainable solid waste management. The Team provides recommendations to communities that are struggling with solid waste management regulations to help them achieve compliance with landfill permitting and legislative requirements.

Join a solid waste advisory meeting

Saskatchewan communities are welcome to participate in Solid Waste Advisory Team meetings to discuss issues, develop solutions, and learn from team members and other communities. Municipal representatives can join meetings via teleconference or by attending in-person.

The next Solid Waste Advisory Team meeting dates are:

July 11 and
October 18, 2017
(Saskatoon)

Contact Us

To learn more about the Solid Waste Advisory Team or to join a meeting, please contact 1-800-567-4224