



July 27, 2017

Herb Handel  
Loess Hills Regional Sanitary Landfill  
59722 290<sup>th</sup> St  
Malvern, Ia 51551

**SUBJECT: Complaint Number: 24292. Mills County. Staff Action ID Number: 119557**

Dear Mr. Handel:

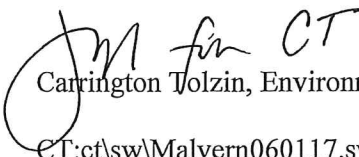
On May 15, 2017, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received a complaint regarding two fires at the Loess Hills Regional Sanitary Landfill. Specifically the complainant stated that he had observed two fires from the facility; one in April and one in May. On June 1, 2017, Jake Theis, Environmental Specialist, and I visited the above-mentioned facility on behalf of the DNR and met with Mr. Herb Handel in response to receipt of complaint number 24292.

After speaking with Mr. Handel, it was determined the fires occurred on April 30<sup>th</sup> around 12:00 p.m and May 14<sup>th</sup> around 4:30 p.m, respectively, in the northwest corner of the facility. The local fire department arrived on scene for both fires in case they were needed. The landfill has two bulldozers and an excavator on site. The workers put out the fire by loading dirt and dumping it on to the affected area. Both fires are suspected to have started from tire chips. With the high build up of heat, and not enough oxygen, the tire chips caught flame and spread. Mr. Handel stated that the landfill workers would be spreading out the shredded tires more so they weren't piled up to where they can build heat. More dirt will also be applied within the layers of the shredded tires as a preventative measure.

Please be advised the 567 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapter 113.8(1)"c" states "*No open burning of any type shall be allowed within the permitted boundary of an MSWLF facility. The fueling of vehicles and equipment, and any other activity that may produce sparks or flame, shall be conducted at least 50 feet away from the working face.*" For the future, it is recommended that Loess Hills Regional Sanitary Landfill contact the DNR if another fire occurs. This complaint is considered closed.

If you have any further questions about this letter, please contact me via e-mail at [carrington.tolzin@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:carrington.tolzin@dnr.iowa.gov) or by telephone at (712)243-1934 / office or (712)249-5175 / cell.

Sincerely,

  
Carrington Tolzin, Environmental Specialist

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CC Becky Jolly, SW Section, DNR, Des Moines, IA  
Complainant  
Facility File

Enclosures: Photographs

