Fire Safety Part 2
Controlling Landfill Fires

Have you ever heard the saying, “It could happen to you.”? Well, this statement is true; you could have a fire at your landfill. If you read our September Safety Wild you would understand how fires happen. We will now talk about how you can control fires.

Hopefully, you are already prepared for a fire at your landfill by having a plan in place and having provided your staff with training. If not, you should look into developing a plan for your landfill.

First and foremost, don't panic. Stop and think before you act. Those words are easy to say but sometimes hard to put into action.

Below are some guidelines to follow:

- Evacuate the area, if you have customers in the area
- Secure the site
- Stay upwind
- Never fight a fire alone; call staff members to help assist
- Isolate the fire
- Most of the time soil is the best way to control the fire
- Have a water truck full and ready to fight the fire
- Never put your equipment in the middle of the fire

There are many ways to put out a fire. If you are prepared by having a soil stockpile near the landfill face, have the proper equipment ready, and have properly trained your employees, you should be able to put out most fires. However, at times you may need assistance from the local fire department. Work with your local fire department to develop a solution to help contain the fire. Also, it is recommended to invite them to your landfill before you have a fire so they understand your operation ahead of time.