



The purpose of the “HOTSHEET” is to advise members of a serious incident or high potential near miss. By sharing this information and acting on the findings, we can reduce the potential for loss cause hazards to other employees, property, and equipment.

FIRE CAUSES TOTAL LOSS: Landfill Shredder

Replacement Cost: \$830,000

Incident Description: The fire caused a total loss to the city’s Landfill Shredder. The shredder reduces the volume of bulky waste within landfills.

Cause: The fire marshal was not able to identify the true cause of the fire, but it was decided that the machine didn’t cause the fire. The fire is believed to be caused by spontaneous combustion within a debris pile. Spontaneous combustion is caused typically when organic or flammable materials are mixed with moisture or water. They are then piled or layered, which limits exposure to the air. This causes a chemical reaction which creates heat. The buildup of heat results in the combustion of organic or flammable materials.

Recommended Corrective Action: We recommend that in any landfill equipment be moved to a location away from debris piles and other fire risks when not being occupied by an operator.



This is not the actual shredder involved in the loss.

