



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: Transfer Station Building

Replacement Cost: \$1,100,000

Incident Description: The fire caused a total loss to the city’s Transfer Station building. The Transfer Station is where residential and commercial garbage is taken by the public and city garbage trucks, then sorted and taken by City roll-off trucks to a nearby County landfill for dumping.

Cause: The fire department determined that the fire started from spontaneous combustion. The area of origin is located on the left side on the front of the building. This was determined by the fire pattern. 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 build up of heat results in the combustion of organic or flammable materials.

Recommended Corrective Action: We recommend any piles of garbage or material with the potential for spontaneous combustion be located at a safe distance from any building/structure. Those piles should be inspected and moved periodically to reduce the risk of spontaneous combustion.

