



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

Palo Alto Landfill (Site #A2721)
Palo Alto, CA
July 24, 2008

At 5:15 PM on July 23, 2008, landfill technicians at the City of Palo Alto Landfill and Composting facility located at 2380 Embarcadero Road saw flames from a newly arrived vegetation pile and alerted the Palo Alto Fire Department. The pile had been added to an existing two story high by two acres wide compost pile. The Palo Alto Fire Department put out the flames by the morning of July 24, 2008, but the piles remain smoldering. The piles will be shifted for the next few days to smother any smoke and prevent flare ups.

The Palo Alto Fire Department sent out a warning at 7:30 PM on July 23 to residents with respiratory problems to stay indoors, and advised others to avoid heavy outside physical activity. No complaints have been received by the Air District. The smoke from the fire drifted towards southern Palo Alto and Mountain View area, and was visible to motorists on Highway 101. Air District ambient air monitors in San Carlos indicated the winds were from the northeast at 10 to 18 miles per hour.

The cause of the fire is not known and is under investigation. District staff will continue to investigate if there were any violations of air quality regulations. This report will be updated as new information becomes available.