

Joint statement by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and Hills Waste Solutions

Issued on Saturday 13 February at 15h30

Fire incident at Lower Compton landfill site Saturday 13 February 2010

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) were called to a fire at the Landfill Site at Lower Compton near Calne, at 05:39 hrs on Saturday 13 February. The fire required the attendance of 8 pumping appliances, 2 Water Carriers, 2 Rope Rescue teams, an Emergency Support Unit, a Control Unit, a Bulk Foam carrier and 6 supporting Managers.

On arrival a large fire was found involving 100m² of plastic sheeting covering an area of landfill. The fire was located on a steeply sloped section of the landfill, causing considerable difficulties to the crews attending in fighting the fire. The steep slopes required the use of 2 Rope Rescue teams to secure firefighters safely and allow the fire to be tackled.

No injuries from the fire were reported and no environmental impact was found. On site staff from Hills Waste Solutions discovered the fire and launched the on-site emergency plan and provided further assistance to the Fire & Rescue Service. The Health Protection Agency and Environment Agency consulted with on site Fire Service Managers and concluded that no further action was necessary.

Wiltshire FRS expect to be at the site for several hours further, dealing with hot spots and ensuring no spread to the underground landfill material. The cause of the fire is not known and still under investigation.

ENDS