

MSW PA_73A_CP_20260519_Investigation
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Investigation Report

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Customer: City of Amarillo
Customer Number: CN600130942

Regulated Entity Name: CITY OF AMARILLO LANDFILL

Regulated Entity Number: RN100237551

Investigation # 2152537

Incident Numbers

Investigator: ANDREW KUKLISH

Site Classification TYPE 1

Supervisor: RANDA RALSTON

Approved Date: 05-27-2026

Conducted: 05/19/2026 -- 05/19/2026

SIC Code: 4953

NAIC Code: 562212

Program(s): MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Investigation Type: Compliance Investigation

Location: ON 3 MI NW OF AMARILLO 2 MI N IH
40 @ 16250 BEZNER RD IN AMARILLO

Additional ID(s) 73A

Address: 16250 BEZNER RD,
AMARILLO, TX , 79124

Local Unit: REGION 01 - AMARILLO

Activity Type(s) MSWOTH - A focused on-site MSW
compliance investigation not
included under other Workplan
event description.

Principal(s):

Role	Name
RESPONDENT	CITY OF AMARILLO

Contact(s):

Role	Title	Name	Phone
REGULATED ENTITY CONTACT	PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR	MR ALAN HARDER	Phone (806) 378-9085
PARTICIPATED IN	LANDFILL SUPERVISOR	MR RICKY RIVERA	Cell (806) 664-1619
PARTICIPATED IN	ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR	MR MICHAEL PADILLA	Phone (806) 378-3000

Other Staff Member(s):

Role	Name
Investigator	TREY OGLE
Investigator	JASON PRUITT
Supervisor	RANDA RALSTON
Investigator	JENEEN JENSEN

Associated Check List

<u>Checklist Name</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>
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Investigation Comments:

INTRODUCTION

On May 19, 2026, Mr. Andrew Kuklish and Mr. Jason Pruitt, Environmental Investigators with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Region 1 Office, conducted an investigation at the City of Amarillo Landfill after the landfill reported a fire at the facility.

GENERAL FACILITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

The City of Amarillo is authorized, under MSW permit 73A to operate a Type 1 municipal solid waste landfill. The landfill is authorized to accept municipal and commercial solid waste, Class 2 and 3 non-hazardous industrial waste, and special waste as outlined in the landfill's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The landfill contains both pre- and post-Subtitle D disposal pits; post-Subtitle D disposal pits are fitted with a geomembrane liner and leachate collection system, where the leachate is collected on-site for later transportation off-site. Landfill gas is collected and piped to a flare station. Spray-on and tarp alternative daily covers are authorized. Groundwater and landfill gas monitoring are conducted according to approved schedules located in the landfill's Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan and the Landfill Gas Monitoring Plan, respectively. The landfill diverts white goods, whole scrap tires, and brush; white goods and scrap tires are transported off-site for further recycling, while brush is composted on-site.

According to the MSW Annual Report submitted by the City of Amarillo, the Amarillo Landfill accepted a total of 284,107.29 tons of waste during Fiscal Year 2025. The remaining capacity of the landfill is 59,065,769 cubic yards, or 29,503,352 tons, with an estimated lifespan of 103 years. The abovementioned figures were calculated on August 4, 2025, by Parkhill & Associates (Engineering License Number F-580) during the landfill's annual assessment.

BACKGROUND

On May 17, 2026, Mr. Alan Harder, Public Works Director with the City of Amarillo, contacted the TCEQ to report a fire at the City of Amarillo Landfill, and response to the fire was following the facility's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Mr. Harder stated that city and county Fire department units, landfill personnel, the Public Works Director, and the Assistant City Manager responsible for that portfolio began immediate response actions.

INVESTIGATION

On May 19, 2026, Mr. Kuklish and Mr. Pruitt conducted an on-site investigation at the City of Amarillo Landfill in response to the landfill reporting a fire at the facility on May 17, 2026. The investigators met with Mr. Ricky Rivera, Landfill Superintendent for the City of Amarillo, and Mr. Michael Padilla, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Amarillo. Mr. Padilla stated that the City of Amarillo had contacted their contractor, HazMat Special Services, on May 17, 2026, for additional fire suppression services, who arrived at the landfill approximately 0000 hrs. on May 18, 2026. The contractor was utilizing radar to identify additional hot spots in deposited waste and using a track hoe to dig into deposited waste and apply water or fire-suppression chemicals as necessary.

Mr. Rivera, Mr. Padilla, and the investigators traveled to the affected location at the landfill. The investigators observed the landfill's working face with earthen cover applied and some areas still smoldering with smoke. The investigators also observed a track hoe and water truck on top of the deposited waste with personnel actively inspecting the waste for hot spots. Water tanks, water tanker trucks, and specialized chemical tanks were observed nearby for deployment as needed (Attachment 1).

On May 26, 2026, Ms. Jeneen Jensen and Mr. Trey Ogle, Air Investigators with TCEQ, conducted air monitoring around the perimeter of the City of Amarillo Landfill and the affected neighboring areas. The investigators arrived on the east side of the landfill at approximately 2:15 p.m. and began monitoring the area. The ambient air temperature was 77 degrees Fahrenheit with prevailing winds from the South at 7-8 miles per hour with mostly cloudy skies. The investigators scanned the area outside of the landfill utilizing a Honeywell Multi-Rae Lite and Multi-Rae Pro, which monitors sulfur dioxide (SO2), hydrogen sulfide (H2S), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and Gamma radiation (Gamma). The investigators moved to a neighboring area located southeast of the landfill and continued monitoring. Throughout the duration of monitoring, the oxygen levels stayed at the normal level of 20.9% and no other readings were detected for SO2, H2s, VOCs, or Gamma.

CONCLUSION

The City of Amarillo Landfill was following the procedures outlined in their SOP concerning landfill fires and no compounds were detected in the air during monitoring in the neighboring area.

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1: Photos

No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Enforcement Action Request (EAR) | ☐ Maps, Plans, Sketches |
| ☐ Letter to Facility (specify type) : _____ | ☒ Photographs |
| Investigation Report | ☐ Correspondence from the facility |
| ☐ Sample Analysis Results | ☐ Other (specify) : _____ |
| ☐ Manifests | _____ |
| ☐ Notice of Registration | _____ |

List of Attached files
AMA Landfill Fire photo page.pdf

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Investigation No.: 2152537

Location: City of Amarillo Landfill

County: Potter

Investigation & Photograph Date: 5/19/26

Investigator/Photographer: A. Kuklish



Photo #1

Comments: Looking southeast within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on the landfill's working face (Cell 10) with observed smoke from deposited waste. Photo taken May 19, 2026.



Photo #2

Comments: Looking southeast within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on the landfill's working face (Cell 10) with observed smoke from deposited waste. Photo taken May 19, 2026.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Investigation No.: 2152537

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Photo #3

Comments: Looking southeast within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on the landfill's working face (Cell 10) with observed smoke from deposited waste. A trackhoe and truck are also observed on the deposited waste with a worker working on fire suppression. Photo taken May 19, 2026.



Photo #4

Comments: Looking north within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on water tanks on-site being used for fire suppression. Photo taken May 19, 2026.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Investigation No.: 2152537

Location: City of Amarillo Landfill

County: Potter

Investigation & Photograph Date: 5/19/26

Investigator/Photographer: A. Kuklish



Photo #5

Comments: Looking west within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on specialized chemical tanks on-site being used for fire suppression. Photo taken May 19, 2026.



Photo #6

Comments: Looking west within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on specialized chemical tanks on-site being used for fire suppression. Photo taken May 19, 2026.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Investigation No.: 2152537

Location: City of Amarillo Landfill

County: Potter

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Investigator/Photographer: A. Kuklish



Photo #7

Comments: Looking east within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on water tank trucks online for fire suppression. Photo taken May 19, 2026.



Photo #8

Comments: Looking south within the permitted boundary of the City of Amarillo Landfill. Photo focuses on a water tank truck online for fire suppression and noted the company's logo on the door. Photo taken May 19, 2026.