

TITLE: Wind Closure Policy – Landfill Operations

PURPOSE:

To ensure safe landfill operations and prevent on and off-site litter, environmental impacts, equipment hazards and public safety concerns during high wind conditions.

1. DEFINITIONS

- **Sustained Wind:** Average wind speed over a 1-minute period measured on-site
 - **Wind Gust:** Peak instantaneous wind speed
 - **High Wind Event:** Conditions that impair safe operation or litter control
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2. WIND MONITORING

- Wind speed shall be monitored using an **on-site anemometer**
 - Readings recorded at:
 - Start of shift
 - Every 2 hours
 - During changing weather conditions
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3. OPERATIONAL THRESHOLDS

Level 1 – Normal Operations

- Winds: **0–20 mph**
- Action:
 - Standard operations
 - Routine litter control

Level 2 – Elevated Wind Conditions

- Winds: **20–30 mph sustained OR gusts >35 mph**
- Action:
 - Reduce working face size
 - Suspend light material unloading (paper, plastics, cardboard, styrofoam)
 - Increase litter patrol frequency
 - Pit Inspector begins to monitor wind frequently

Level 3 – Restricted Operations

- Winds: **≥30 mph sustained OR gusts ≥40 mph**
- Action:
 - Limit active tipping area
 - Closure to the General Public
 - Convenience Bin Dumping Area will be utilized for small household loads

Level 4 – Closure Conditions

- Winds: **≥35 mph sustained OR gusts ≥45 mph**
- Action:
 - **Immediately cease waste acceptance**
 - Close working face
 - Secure all loose materials
 - Direct incoming traffic to exit

4. OPERATOR DISCRETION

The Site Manager or designated supervisor may **close operations at any time**, regardless of measured wind speeds, if:

- Litter cannot be controlled
- Visibility is reduced
- Equipment operation is unsafe
- Road conditions are hazardous
- Any part of the site is deemed unsafe for the public

5. CLOSURE PROCEDURES

- Scale house notified immediately
- Customers turned away or held safely
- Working face covered or stabilized
- Equipment parked in safe location
- Public notification (if extended closure)

6. REOPENING CRITERIA

Operations may resume when:

- Sustained winds fall below **30 mph**
- Conditions remain stable for **60 minutes**
- Litter control can be maintained

7. DOCUMENTATION

- Record:
 - Wind speeds
 - Time of closure and reopening
 - Reason for closure
- Maintain logs for regulatory compliance

8. TRAINING

All operators and scale house staff shall be trained annually on:

- Wind hazard recognition
- Closure procedures
- Communication protocols

9. REFERENCES

- Wyoming DEQ Solid Waste Rules (litter control requirements)
 - Industry best practices (CO, KS, High Plains landfills)
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