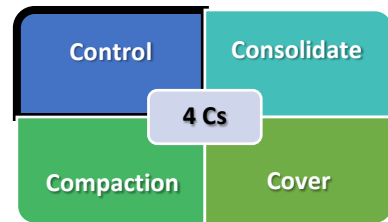


1.3 Closing the Gate/Access Control

Landfill access control is about making sure that the public is kept safe from the landfill and the landfill is kept safe from the public. Access to the landfill must be limited by the use of fencing, berms, or natural barriers to control public access to the site. (18 AAC 60.220)



There are two types of access control:

Physical Controls (access is limited by barriers)

Fencing

Berms

Other physical barriers
around the landfill

Operational Controls (access is limited by policy and practice)

Restricted hours of use

Restricted hours with
supervision by landfill staff

Access limited to only
landfill staff

Physical controls such as fencing, locking gates, and berms are the first line of defense for landfill access control. Fencing and gates need to be well-maintained to be effective in restricting access to the landfill. If a landfill does not have any physical controls, then obtaining and installing physical controls is the first step to achieving access control at the landfill.

Access control through operational management can be achieved in small steps. For example, the first step might be moving from open access to restricted hours without supervision, then moving to restricted hours with supervision, and finally, restricting landfill access to landfill staff only as a best management practice.



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Restricted hours but unsupervised by landfill staff – This is an option if the landfill has a gate or some physical controls in place but does not have a designated landfill operator yet. With this style of access control, the gate is open only during the landfill’s operating hours, but the operator is not always present to supervise disposal. While this reduces the opportunities for people to access the landfill and improperly dispose of waste, it can still lead to people lighting their own trash on fire or disposing of waste in the wrong place.



Landfill with drop off bin for waste outside of the gate.

Community outreach is important for teaching people that only the operator should light the burn unit and to discourage illegal dumping outside of the landfill. Signs are crucial for guiding people on where and how to dispose of waste.

Restricted hours supervised by landfill staff—This is a great next step to work towards once the community is used to establish hours of operation. With this type of access control, the landfill gate is locked outside of the operating hours and when the landfill is open, the operator is present to supervise disposal. This option allows the operator to control waste placement and screen loads for prohibited wastes. The operator’s job is made easier as they can control all the activities within the landfill.



Locked landfill gate with signage.

With this style of operational management, illegal dumping in the community or outside of the landfill gate can become a problem. However, this can be addressed with outreach to the community members, local ordinances and enforcement, a collection program, and/or staging waste drop off bins outside of the landfill gate.

If a drop off bin is placed outside of the landfill, it should be a container that can easily be emptied frequently so that waste doesn’t build up outside of the landfill.

Access restricted to landfill staff only—This is the gold standard that landfills should work towards. In this option, access to the landfill is limited to landfill staff only, so trash must be collected in bins at the entrance or collected in town with a collection program. Restricting access to only the landfill staff has the benefit of minimizing the potential for people to transfer germs and contaminants from the landfill to the community.

Helpful Tips:

- Physical barriers such as barrels, logs, and moveable fencing keep people out of areas of the landfill that are closed. They can also be used to direct users towards appropriate disposal areas.
- Hanging up game cameras can be successful in catching people dumping waste at the gate or cutting the locks off the gate.
- Stage an after-hours waste receptacle such as a homemade dumpster, a fish tote with a lid, or other container for people to leave their trash in order to keep the wildlife out until the landfill operator arrives to properly dispose of the waste.
- Signs are needed regardless of the access control method to inform people of where and how to dispose of their waste and to list prohibited wastes at the facility.