



**30 January 2018**

**Statement: Fire at Northacre MBT plant**

On Monday morning 29 January monitoring systems at the Northacre MBT plant detected the possibility of smoke within the bio-hall of the facility indicating a potential fire. The plant was closed immediately and, in the absence of visible flames or smoke, staff on site made investigations, including the use of thermal imaging technology, to identify the source.

Once identified, the area was dampened down which caused an amount of smoke and steam to be generated. In order to improve visibility within the building the reception doors were opened to vent the building. A member of the public called emergency services to attend the site and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service arrived to find the situation under control, and it remained so through the evening and night. This most certainly was not a large fire as has been described by some sources.

DWFRS did provide some support by way of applying water and some localised foam but worked to the plan that Hills were instructing them on and they left site at midnight satisfied that on site staff were in control of the situation.

No one was injured in the incident and no damage has been sustained to either the building or equipment at the site as a result.

As a precaution the facility remained closed to any waste inputs whilst thorough checks were undertaken to ensure the situation was resolved, and the site began accepting waste again at 9.00am on 31 January.

The Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council have been kept up to date with the situation.

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