

# Incident Summary

**Fire at;  
Wagstaff Recycling Plant,  
Long Lane,  
Great Heck,  
Selby.**



## **1.0 Details of the Incident**

- 1.1 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service attended two large fires at the Wagstaff Recycling Plant, Long Lane, Great Heck, during May and June 2015 and were subsequently involved in attending the site to dampen down until the end of 2015.
- 1.2 The Service was unable to extinguish the deep seated fire which was eventually extinguished by contractors who had been commissioned by the Environment Agency to do so. A large proportion of the waste material has been removed from the site and the waste remaining has been re-profiled to ensure that any future fires are limited to waste piles that are of a suitable size to allow them to be managed and extinguished.
- 1.3 Wagstaffs was a total waste management company that was regulated by the Environment Agency. Wagstaffs provided recycling of a variety of waste material to both the domestic and commercial markets.
- 1.4 The first incident started on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 and was finally closed on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the 'stop' having been issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015. The fire was reported initially as a small fire in the open but grew to utilise 40 appliances from North Yorkshire and surrounding FRS and required the attendance of 7 flexible duty officers. The incident also attracted the attendance of a High Volume Pump, a Water Bowser and an Aerial Ladder Platform and required the attendance or liaison with a number of category one and two partners.
- 1.5 The fire did not directly involve any property and was contained within the waste material in which it started. The most likely cause of this fire has been recorded as accidental due to natural combustion.
- 1.6 The second incident started on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and was finally closed on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015, the 'stop' having been issued on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
- 1.7 This fire involved 26 appliances from North Yorkshire and surrounding FRS and required the attendance of 23 flexible duty officers. This incident also attracted the attendance of a High Volume Pump, Water Bowser and Aerial Ladder Platform. On this occasion the fire started in a non compartmented building and the cause has been recorded as deliberate.
- 1.8 The Service were called to attend the site once again in late September and early October following which it was agreed with multi agency partners through the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (NYLRF) that it would not be possible to extinguish the deep seated fire that had developed in the waste pile using conventionally available firefighting techniques.
- 1.9 Following subsequent meetings of Tactical and Strategic Coordination Groups of the NYLRF a contractor was appointed to clear waste from the site and extinguish the fire. This work commenced in late November and the fire was finally extinguished during the week of Christmas 2015. During January 2016 the contractor then reprofiled the waste that remains into suitable sized and separate piles that will be manageable from a fire service perspective should any subsequent fires occur in them.