

Introduction

The **Solid Waste Management for Rural Alaska Operational Guidance** was developed by the Solid Waste Program to provide guidance for better managing solid waste in rural Alaska.

The information included in this guidance is focused on improving waste management in communities with Class III landfills. Waste management in small and remote communities has very specific challenges and it is important that these challenges are addressed. This document is intended to help community leaders and landfill operators tackle those challenges by explaining how best to ensure that solid waste is handled and disposed of in a manner that minimizes impacts to human health and the environment. These practices are commonly referred to as Best Management Practices.

While this guidance has been developed for remote communities, it only provides general advice. Each community's needs and circumstances are unique and site-specific. The Rural Landfill Specialists at ADEC can provide communities with additional information to help with those site-specific needs.

The 4 Cs

Access Control, Consolidation, Compaction, and Cover (known as the 4 Cs) are the basics of operating a landfill. ADEC believes these four elements are the foundation to proper landfill management. Without a comprehensive understanding and implementation of these basic operations, the overall cost of maintaining a landfill will be higher and the landfill's negative impact on human health and the environment can be greater.

Focusing on the 4 Cs is a great way to start learning about waste management improvement techniques. Throughout this manual, this graphic will appear in sections that either play a role in supporting one of the 4 Cs or is one of the 4 Cs itself. For example, the use of signs can support landfill control and consolidation.

