



AFD continues to monitor compost fires

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The winds have died down, but Austin fire crews are continuing to monitor the compost piles at the Hornsby Biosolids Management Plant that caught fire on Monday due to the strong winds.

Firefighters stayed on the scene overnight to keep an eye on the dozens of compost piles that continue to burn this morning. They are letting the piles, which stand between 20 and 30 feet tall, burn themselves out. AFD was able to contain the fire within the plant, but is still working to get the blazes under control.

"We're going to be watching these fires probably for the next couple of days, once we get these fires knocked down," said Jason Hill, with Austin Water. "If the wind shifts again and stirs up, it could create another hot spot or ignite a hot spot."

The city of Austin produces dillo dirt—a mixture of yard trimmings and human waste—at the Hornsby Biosolids Management Plant.

High winds gusting up to around 50 miles-per-hour yesterday started the fire, which left plumes of smoke visible for miles. The Austin Fire Department says it could be days before the fire is completely extinguished.
