

Fire prevention: combustible recyclable and waste materials



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



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Fact sheet



About the guideline

The [Management and storage of combustible recyclable and waste materials – guideline](#) (EPA publication 1667) helps you understand how to identify and manage the hazards and risk of fire at your waste resource recovery facility.

It was developed by EPA with Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and Country Fire Authority (CFA). Government and waste industry representatives were consulted. The guideline helps you comply with the Victorian Government's [Waste Management Policy \(Combustible Recyclable and Waste Materials\)](#) (the policy).

Why is this important?

The impacts of fire can be significant. Good fire management protects your local environment, your workers and the local community. It can also save you money and support your business's reputation.

EPA authorised officers are inspecting waste resource recovery facilities, focusing on fire prevention. You may be asked to take action to manage the risk of fire. You may be penalised if you do not comply with the policy.

Who does the policy apply to?

The policy applies to **all waste resource recovery facilities** in Victoria regardless of size. This does not include licensed waste tyre storage premises and licensed landfills.

What do I need to do?

Use the guideline to find out how to comply with the policy.

The policy requires waste and resource recovery facility managers to:

- Understand the fire hazards associated with their activities.
- Take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of fire from these hazards.
- Conduct and document a fire risk assessment.
- Take all reasonable steps equivalent to the guideline to manage and store combustible recyclable and waste materials (CRWM) in a manner that minimises the risk of harm to human health and the environment.
- Prepare an emergency management plan.

The guideline outlines performance outcomes, which you need to meet to comply with the policy.

Further information

Contact EPA on **1300 372 842**
(1300 EPA VIC) or
epa.vic.gov.au

Download the guideline and
policy on our website:
epa.vic.gov.au/CRWM



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Things you need to consider

The guideline will step you through a continuous four-step process on how to manage risk:



Chapter 3 outlines what is expected of you in **assessing the risk from fire**. This includes identifying fire hazards and assessing risk:



Chapter 4 outlines what is expected of you in **controlling your fire hazards and risks**. This includes choosing appropriate controls, using what we call the 'hierarchy of controls':



Effective storage management is discussed in Chapter 5.

For information about how to **prepare your emergency management plan**, refer to Chapter 6.