

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Unrecognizable hazardous chemicals and batteries cause waste fire in recycle facilities. Government identify over 800 facilities at risk of waste fire in VIC.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

There are at least 8,000 recorded waste fires annually in just four states of Australia.



When an accident, breakdown or malfunction occurs at the site, the pollutants can include particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, hydrogen fluoride, acid gases, volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, dioxins and furans.

Waste fires can easily arise across all stages of the waste management chain (both publically- and privately owned), including waste collection, transport, transfer stations, recycling and disposal at landfill (whether hazardous, mixed or inert).



2-3 KEY USERS:

Mary is a waste recycling yard worker.

Jack is a waste truck operator.

Steven is a firefighter and has experienced waste fire several times.



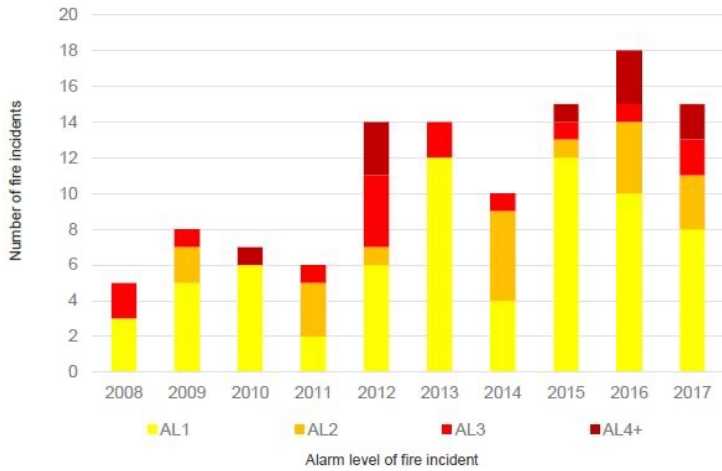
2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

Mary needs help identifying hazardous waste and batteries from general waste, as the factory where she works has suffered two waste fires.

Jack needs a better way of detecting flammables in the recovery truck because of the risk of explosions.

Steven said deep-seated pockets of waste kept reigniting and crews had returned several times.

KEY IMAGES: (2-3 key images with annotation)



Figures from DELWP reveal that more than 100 recycling facility fires have happened in the past decade, with the vast majority occurring from 2012 onwards.

Broadmeadows company Tyre Crumb was fined around \$7,500 by EPA Victoria after a tyre fire in January 2016.(ABC News: Stephanie Anderson)

INDUSTRY SECTORS:

- Government
- Recycle Factory
- Waste truck
- Clean company
- Landfill
- Fire department



China's decision to stop importing recyclable waste has left Australian recyclers with few options to deal with the waste they collect.(DELWP/Resource Recovery Facilities Audit Taskforce)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-21/melbourne-recycling-facilities-pose-fire-risk/10368302>
- <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/publications/waste-fires-australia>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-63142005>
- <https://www.firesafeanz.com.au/warehouse-fire-causes/>
- <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2021/11/20/fire-n20.html>

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