

About the guideline

The [Management and storage of combustible recyclable and waste materials – guideline](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1667-3) (EPA publication 1667.3) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1667-3>) helps you understand how to identify and manage the hazards and risk of fire at your waste and resource recovery facility.

It was developed by Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) with Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and Country Fire Authority (CFA). Government and waste industry representatives were consulted. The guideline helps you comply with the new Victorian environment protection laws.

Why fire prevention is important

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

EPA authorised officers are inspecting waste and 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 Victorian environment protection laws.

Who the Victorian environment protection laws apply to

All Victorians need to understand and manage their risks to the environment.

What you need to do

Use the guideline to find out how to comply with the Victorian environment protection laws.

The Victorian environment protection laws require waste and resource recovery facility duty holders to:

- understand the fire hazards associated with their activities
- take steps to reduce the risk of fire from these hazards so far as reasonably practicable
- conduct and document a fire risk assessment
- store and manage combustible recyclable and waste materials (CRWM) in a manner that minimises the risk of harm to human health and the environment so far as reasonably practicable
- prepare an emergency management plan.

The guideline outlines performance objectives and expected outcomes, which you need to meet to comply with the Victorian environment protection laws.

Further information

Contact EPA on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC) or [epa.vic.gov.au](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

Download the guideline (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1667-3>)

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 controls are discussed in Chapter 5.

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



For languages other than English, please call **131 450**.
Visit epa.vic.gov.au/language-help for next steps.

If you need assistance because of a hearing or speech impairment, please visit relayservice.gov.au