



Flammability of Mobile Waste and Recycling Containers

As a result of many inquiries sent to the GGAWB concerning the flammability of plastic waste and recycling containers, the GGAWB has commissioned the Institut of the Fire Department Saxony-Anhalt to carry out a comprehensive expertise.

The important questions to be reviewed are:

1. Under what conditions does a plastic waste and recycling container burn?
2. What kinds of pollutants are emitted into the air when a plastic waste and recycling container burns?
3. How can a burning plastic waste and recycling container be effectively extinguished?

18 different fire tests were carried out to analyse these questions.

The results are:

1. When the container lid is completely closed, the burning contents of the container extinguish. In contrast, an open container burns completely.
2. No hazardous pollutants were analytically determined when a plastic waste and recycling container was burned.
3. Water combined with a surface-active agent (e.g. water and commercially available detergent) is recommended, among other things, for extinguishing burning plastic waste and recycling containers.

Further information can be found in the summary of the expertise, which can be requested from the headquarters of the GGAWB e.V.

Cologne, May 2011

GGAWB e.V. Gütegemeinschaft Abfall- und Wertstoffbehälter
Siegburger Str. 126, 50679 Köln
Fon: + 49 (0) 221 / 946 99-79
Fax: + 49 (0) 221 / 946 99-81
Mail: info@ggawb.de / web: www.ggawb.de