Emerging Hazards in Recycling Facilities

Outline

• What is the value of waste?
• What is a waste and recycling facility?
• What problems does this present?
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What is the value of waste?

One persons waste is another persons gold

- Value to society and governments is rising based on green policies
- Highly profitable business often with added incentives

- It is rubbish
- Nobody wants it
- Easy to obtain – no supply issues

- No perceived value on the commodity by business
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What is a waste and recycling facility?

- A multitude of storage, process and energy type risks
- Often open communication
- Huge variation in management of premises
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What problems does this present?

- Large fires
- Losses
- Environmental impact
- Impact on services

Photo – London Fire Brigade
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Waste Risk Types

- Waste Transfer Stations
- Materials Recovery Facility
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- Materials Recovery Facility
- Waste to Power & Incinerators
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Well planned and managed
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Busy and Mobile Plant
Really Busy – Even More Typical
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Processes
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Hydraulics, Conveyors, Sorting Rooms, Maintenance
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What problems does this present?

- Waste material is often flammable and even minor fires can ignite the large quantities of methane present around decomposing material.

- According to Material Recycling Weekly (UK) there was on average more than one fire per week in recycling facilities during 2014.

Photos – London Fire Brigade
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Storage Issues
Thank you