

*Fire test by Emergency Services College:*

## MOLOK CONTAINERS IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY IN WASTE MANAGEMENT



*Surface bins with wooden structures are very vulnerable both for fire and misuse.*

**A fire test held by the Finnish Emergency Services College demonstrates that Molok deep collection containers improve fire safety in waste collection and give fire services more time to react, since the containers are difficult to ignite. Fire safety in waste collection has attracted particular attention recently because of numerous attempts to set on fire waste containers and waste collection sheds.**

Two Molok deep collection containers of different sizes were used in the test carried out by the Emergency Services College. One container was filled with dry waste paper and the other, larger container with ordinary community waste.

The first part of the test was an attempt to set the container on fire by dropping a burning cigarette on to the waste paper. Even though the wind was blowing during the test and the lid was open, the Molok container did not catch fire from the cigarette and the fire died out. In the second part of the test, the top layer in the container consisted of shredded paper. In this case the cigarette started a smouldering fire that went out on its own, however.

In the final part of the test, the paper in the deep collection container was set on fire with a propane burner. It took 20 minutes before the container lid began to melt and stuck to the cover. Even though in the end the lid was opened, the container structure withstood the smouldering fire for three hours before the fire burst into flame.

The other container in the test, containing three cubic metres of community waste, was also lit with a propane burner. Ten minutes after lighting the fire, the lid softened and fell shut by itself. When the lid was opened again, it took over half an hour before the smouldering fire burnt a hole in the container and started a blazing fire.

In its summary report on the test, the Emergency Services College states that a burning cigarette did not ignite the waste paper in the Molok container even when the paper was shredded.

The fires lit by a propane burner continued to smoulder in both containers very slowly. In no cases did the fires spread outside the container in less than six minutes, which is the normal response time for fire and emergency services.



*According to the fire test, Molok containers are very difficult to ignite.*