

## || BRIDGE HILL AS - Fire Blanket

### *the challenge*

In 2014 a fire in Lærdal, Norway damaged 60 buildings. 42 were totally destroyed. Of these buildings, four were of historical value and one was listed. The fire in Lærdal was the biggest city fire in Norway in seventy years and was particularly destructive due to strong winds that made the fire spread easily.

This fire initiated an idea that turned into the quest of making a fire blanket that could protect, prevent and stop fire. The fire blankets are today available under the brand name Bridgehill, and we serve a range of fire blankets.

As the numbers of electric vehicles are rapidly increasing, fire fighters are lacking methods for handling lithium-ion fires. A firefighter can use thousands of gallons of water trying to extinguish a fire in an electric vehicle without results. Also, with combustion engines there are challenges with traditional extinguishing methods. With the fire blanket you will deprive the object of oxygen within seconds and isolate the fire from spreading to the surrounding areas.



### *the innovation*

Our fire blankets enable firefighters and non-firefighters to safely isolate and extinguish fires in combustion- and electric vehicles, e-scooters, parking garages, public buildings, car parks, ropax, warehouses, cargo- and RORO ships and other spaces before the fire spreads. The purpose of the fire blanket is to deprive oxygen, and then extinguishing all traditional fires without a drop of water. When using the Bridgehill fire blanket, the fire fighters, people in the area and the environment are less exposed to the smoke. The blanket prevents the fire from spreading, which is especially important in areas where cars are parked close. When used on shore, the fire blanket prevents the risk of extinguishing water seeping into the groundwater.

Bridgehill fire blankets come in different sizes, and are made for both single-use for the corporate market (e.g. RORO and warehouses), and multiple-use purpose for the professional market (e.g. firefighters).

### *how it was implemented*

Bridgehill established its headquarters in Larvik, Norway in after the fire in Lærdal. When entering a new market - the strategy is to target the main target group: the firefighters. With the firefighter's approval we found it is easier to target e.g. industrial protection departments, the RoRo-industry, car manufactures, warehouses etc.

Since the Bridgehill fire blankets was -and still are - an innovation in the safety industry it is important to not only tell, but to show the product to potential customers and media. This is done by arranging demos and trainings where the Bridgehill fire blanket is used both for dry training and in real fire cases in real case scenarios.

Today Bridgehill sell mostly through a wide network of distributors around the world. Still headquartered in Larvik, Norway.

### *result*

This year alone Bridgehill has sold fire blankets to Over 40 countries worldwide. In total we have customers in more than 60 countries. Our safety innovation, the fire blankets, are starting to be a used fire extinguishing product, a new way of fighting fire in the market.



### *conclusion*

A situation can easily get out of the control with cars parked close to each other. To be able to handle a car fire on board a vessel, or in a tight parking place, it is essential to be able to control the fire fast. The space between the floor and the ceiling is less in an *underground* park/car deck than in an open parking space. Therefore the room will be faster filled with toxic smoke. The smoke and fire will be quickly isolated after the fire blanket has been deployed. The fire blanket is probably the most efficient firefighting tool to isolate and extinguish fires on board vessels and in similar situations.