



Statement on the fire in the building complex

“Essen-Westviertel, Bargmannstraße”, on 21. February 2022

On February 21, 2022, a major fire broke out in the early morning hours in Essen, in which a building complex of Vivawest Wohnen GmbH was engulfed in flames in a minimum of time. All residents were evacuated in time, however 39 apartments burned out entirely. So far it is known that three people suffered smoke inhalations.

FSDE expresses its deepest sympathy to all those affected and wishes everyone a swift and total recovery.

The investigation of the cause of the fire is ongoing, therefore speculation is improper. However, the cause of the fire and its rapid spread must be examined thoroughly and swiftly. It is very likely that the strong gusts of wind from cyclone Antonia were a decisive factor in the fire being able to spread so quickly and being repeatedly reignited. Experts assume that the balconies may also have played a role in the spread of the fire too. Two opinions on this::

The fire department announced at noon: „The balconies have a curtain plastic cladding and the same kind of partitions between each other. The fire, accelerated by the wind, climbed up the facade and ran away to the left side, forced its way into the apartments through broken window panes, destroyed everything there and also caused panes on the outer facade to burst. It was so violent that a door made of steel on the outside melted, staircases are also no longer accessible.“

(Source: bild.de)

„Vivavest emphasizes that, in accordance with building regulations, the building was equipped with fire doors to prevent a fire from spreading quickly. The fire doors were last serviced in March 2021. The insulation of the building is mainly done with mineral fiber panels [...], the spokesperson said.“

(Source: bild.de)

[Link to the fire department operation report](#)

Berlin, 22.02.2022