

The subject of this work are fuels and their additives. It includes an assessment of related potential environmental hazards and it is a compilation in its nature. Its mission is to give a clear description of the basic types of fuels and fuel additives.

The introductory part is a brief description of the oil itself (crude oil), and its by-products. These differentiate by their chemical composition and include paraffinic, naphthenic, aromatic, and asphaltic oil. In the next part the work focuses on a more detailed description of different types of fuel supplied to our domestic market. Here it is possible to find an analytical analysis which allows to infer on the quality of the product. This information, however is only informative and approximate as a laboratory analysis was not carried out. The subsequent part is devoted to the description of the various types of additives with regard to their influence on the operation of gasoline and internal combustion engines in both positive and negative sense. Attention is given to the environmental risk associated with their production, storage and use in the automotive industry, especially to the combustion processes within the engines, the subsequent discharge of emissions into the atmosphere and their deposition in the biosphere. The conclusion is devoted to a brief list of alternative fuels and to the idea of substitution of oil as an energy-rich resource.