



# ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFING

## Beware of Organised Fly-tipping - **especially at Christmas**

### Background

The Environment Agency have made us aware of an ongoing problem of organised gangs carrying out large scale fly tips at locations around the Midlands, most recently, but also across the country. Unfortunately, one of our dormant aggregates sites has, previously, fallen foul of this where we had at least two significant loads of waste dumped on site. We have also experienced a similar issue at a mothballed Readymix Plant. These events result in a significant cost to CEMEX as, where the offender cannot be identified, CEMEX becomes liable for the clean-up and disposal costs to clear the sites. The Christmas holidays may give these gangs a greater opportunity to access our sites.

The principal method used by the gangs is for the lock to be removed on derelict/disused industrial sites or large open areas. Large 32 tonne tippers will then enter and deposit up to 20 tonnes of commercial waste in a single drop. They will then replace the lock so that it is not immediately evident that there is an issue and so that they can gain access at a later date to continue to deposit waste illegally.

For the CEMEX aggregates site, the offenders gained entry to the site by using a battery driven saw to cut through the hasp securing the gates in place. They were "wise" enough to leave the padlock intact and in place so that the gate looked to be secure, meaning they could return as and when they wished. Luckily, the problem was identified before more than 2 loads of waste could be deposited. For the Readymix Plant the fly tippers replaced the lock and had tipped waste in bays so that it was not evident from the road. The Environment Agency are following up on significant lines of enquiry, but intelligence would suggest that the offenders remain active and that they will be out and about scouting for similar locations.



For sites that fit the profile, please ensure that regular routine security checks are being completed and take steps to protect sites from a similar attack – particularly at Christmas. This could protect us from significant costs should we be targeted again particularly if hazardous waste is illegally tipped. We have now, for example, enclosed the padlock at the aggregates site in a strong metal shroud and plan to place concrete blocks at the entrance to frustrate further attempts to enter the site. More support and advice can be obtained from our Security Team.

### Key Points

- **Please be aware that organised crime gangs are targeting disused industrial sites / open spaces to fly tip on an industrial scale.**
- Please identify any potential sites which could be targeted for fly tipping and ensure that regular routine checks are carried out at these sites (bearing in mind that the criminals often disguise their access to the site so that they are able to return later).
- Please review your security measures and make additional provisions as required. This could include use of metal shrouds around padlocks or physical barriers to entry, such as troughs, bunds and concrete blocks.
- This could protect us from significant costs associated with site clean-up and waste disposal.
- If you have any concerns about security, then please contact our CEMEX Security Team for advice and support.