

UK Safety Alert

Quarry Trespass Incident

Details of the Incident

During a period of hot weather a group of four youths entered a company quarry and, after proceeding to the quarry bottom, they started to swim in the fresh water lagoon. The security officer on site observed them from the observation point and called out to warn them off. At this point they very quickly left the site.



The quarry is quite unique due to a number of Public Footpaths crossing the site. From these footpaths the public can easily see what appears to be an attractive place to swim. The site had been previously considered as high risk and consequently an on-site security guard had been employed.

Learning Points

We must be able to demonstrate that we have acted reasonably and responsibly in trying to prevent trespassers from coming onto our sites. We must have suitable and sufficient Risk Assessments in place which should take account of the following:

1. **Boundary Fences.** These need to be inspected as per the health and safety inspection regimes. Any evidence of trespass, damage and remedial actions taken should be documented, ideally with before and after photographs being taken.
2. **Hazardous Water.** The risk assessment must consider the requirement for fencing around water hazards where it is reasonably foreseeable that members of the public, including children, are **likely** to trespass.
3. **Signage.** All signage needs to be clear and in place. In addition, signage should also be clearly displayed on the approaches to all hazardous areas.
4. **Rescue Equipment.** Rescue equipment such as life rings etc need to be readily available close to the hazards.
5. **Emergency Plans.** Emergency plans, including emergency contact numbers, need to be in place with appropriate practice drills held and documented.
6. **Trespass Incidents.** Any incident of trespass is very serious and must be both recorded and reported through the line management structure.