

# Members' Briefing



No: XX/2019

## MPA Protestor Advice

### Background

The Mineral Products Association have been engaging with the national police to address the potential threats and risks arising from environmental protests and activism associated with the sector.

The origins of these potential risks are multi-faceted, ranging from supply chain (linked to specific projects), environmental (related to local site-specific issues - both operational or planned developments) and climate change related (national/global campaigns, with the potential to focus on cement/concrete). At the extreme end of this spectrum are the risks posed by terrorism, which is particularly relevant to the potential for vehicles to be used as weapons in urban areas.

While the nature of these risks will vary, a number of steps can be taken to help protect operational sites, high value assets, employees, protestors and the general public.

MPA members are encouraged to put in place measures that ensure actions taken by company and contracted staff during the course of any protest action are consistent with the commitment of the company to values such as:

- Health and Safety
- Environmental considerations
- Ethics/Legislation
- Business Reputation
- Respect for the viewpoint of others

### Be vigilant

In all cases, protestors will look to undertake hostile reconnaissance in advance of protests, so the awareness and vigilance of office/site staff remains paramount.

[Guidance](#) prepared by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) outlines what protestors are looking to achieve in advance of any action and outlines some simple steps that can be taken to disrupt what is described as 'hostile reconnaissance':

- DENY individuals the opportunity to gain information
- DETECT them when they are conducting their reconnaissance
- DETER them by promoting failure through messaging and physical demonstration of effective security

If any suspicious or unusual behaviour is observed at or near a site or office, this should be reported to site management, so it can be logged and potentially reported to the police (via the 101 service).

MPA members are encouraged to share relevant information with [security@mineralproducts.org](mailto:security@mineralproducts.org) to facilitate ongoing engagement and coordination with the national police service and other member companies.

### **Understand your risk/exposure**

Although member company sites may not yet have been targeted, there remains the potential for any site or office associated with the cement/concrete sector to become a target in the future - particularly given the recent emergence of the Extinction Rebellion movement. Higher risk sites could include those:

- Previously targeted by protestors.
- Linked to a construction project that is being protested against by the local community.
- Ongoing planning applications/licencing, which are viewed negatively by the local community.
- Close to a residential area, or more easily accessed by protestors.

Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) are embedded in every police constabulary and represent a valuable resource that is available to provide advice to local businesses <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-support-for-businesses-and-communities/working-with-counter-terrorism-security-advisers>.

### **Be prepared - develop a communications and response plan in advance**

In the event of a potential/actual incident, company procedures should be clear about who is responsible for co-ordinating the immediate company response.

MPA members are encouraged to develop a communications and response plan that sets out both local and corporate roles, responsibilities and reporting lines in the event of a protest occurring at a site, including options for external media messaging (holding statements).

Company employees (and contractors/franchise holders) should be briefed to ensure that they do not provide protestors with photo opportunities or sound bites with negative propaganda potential. Everyone with a mobile phone is a potential cameraman/woman, who will be tweeting/blogging to a potential online audience of thousands or millions.

To this end all staff should be reminded;

- never to be drawn or provoked into confrontational situations
- never become involved in situations that would put health, safety or lives at risk
- adopt a slow, deliberate, calm but firm approach to all eventualities
- display the highest standards of behaviour when dealing with protestors

Company staff on site should avoid any public comment during any local protest activity, either to protestors or to third parties (journalists) who may be accompanying them.

In the event that a protest does take place, MPA members are encouraged to share relevant information with [security@mineralproducts.org](mailto:security@mineralproducts.org) to facilitate engagement and coordination with the national police service and other member companies.

### Site review considerations

When reviewing the potential protest risks and relevant controls at individual sites and offices, the following points should be considered:

- Understand your site boundaries and be clear about the land ownership/control within and adjacent to these boundaries as this is useful information for the police in the event that they need to attend. A land ownership/control plan should form part of every site contingency plan.
- Consider a pro-active boundary check to ensure protesters cannot easily trespass onto a site.
- Make sure that site teams are aware of the potential threat and that everyone remains vigilant and reports any suspicious behaviour at or near site.
- Multi-business unit sites should ensure that there is a common understanding of roles and responsibilities for any site contingency plan.
- Sites with guarding/security should discuss the potential risk escalation procedures with the guards.
- Sites with monitored CCTV should contact the monitoring company to check the contact details they have on file are correct and advise there is a potentially increased risk at present.
- Where sites don't have operational CCTV, consider installing CCTV warning signs around the boundary as a visual deterrent measure.
- Establish local police liaison so that you can work together in the event of a site protest.
- Review procedures to lock down/close gates, secure the site and prevent access should there be an attempt to gain entry.
- Put in place steps to secure any office environments - switching computers off, securing portable computer devices (laptops), locking paperwork away
- Consider liaising with your immediate neighbours to ensure a coordinated approach.
- Consider creating a WhatsApp group between Managers and Supervisors on site so critical information can be shared as quickly as possible, particularly on multi-business unit sites.
- Test site communication procedures (site radios, tannoys, mobile phones and mobile messaging).
- If protesters attempted to access a site consider what they might try and do - could they easily access key machinery/vehicles and glue/chain themselves to it? Discuss possible mitigations with local police.
- Ensure all staff and contractors are briefed on contingency plans, including the reporting requirements to company operational and media leads.
- Rehearse contingency plans - especially closing of main gates and lockdown of offices.

For further information please contact Mark Russell at the MPA on 07870 596 865 or [mark.russell@mineralproducts.org](mailto:mark.russell@mineralproducts.org).

## SECURITY AWARENESS SITE CHECKLIST

### DAY TO DAY AWARENESS

#### SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- Remain vigilant - look out for any signs that someone is watching your site
- Report any suspicious activity to your line manager

### IN THE EVENT OF PROTESTERS AT SITE OR OFFICES

#### PROTESTERS AT SITE

- Close and secure site gates, offices
- Avoid confrontation
- Make sure ALL staff, contractors and visitors are safe

#### LOCAL SITE ESCALATION

- Inform Line Manager and Area Operations Manager/Area Director
- Make sure all Site Business Units are aware
- Inform Company Press Office
- Secure mobile plant

#### EXTERNAL ESCALATION

- Inform local Police (via 101 service)
- Alert neighbouring businesses (if appropriate)

#### MANAGING DISRUPTION

- Wherever possible warn incoming hauliers not to enter site until given all clear
- Liaise with Distribution to service immediate customer needs from other sites
- If necessary be prepared to warn incoming shift not to enter site until given all clear

#### PLEASE DO

- Remain calm and courteous
- Make sure everyone on site remains fully aware as the incident develops
- Make sure everyone on site remains safe

#### PLEASE DON'T

- Confront protesters
- Act aggressively
- Be drawn into conversations
- Provide comment to any press