

THEFT & VANDALISM

Theft and vandalism, regrettably, are issues of increasing significance across the quarrying and mineral products industry. All such incidents have impacts on businesses, varying from minor inconvenience to major costs and lost production, not to mention the consequential implications for health & safety of employees, contractors and possibly the general public. The **success** of this 'Safequarry' facility depends largely on the willingness of **users to submit Incident Reports**. Please share this information – your company/site/location will not be revealed.

METAL THEFT

The soaring global prices in metal markets – particularly for copper and lead – have exacerbated this trend, facilitated by the continued 'cash-for-scrap' arrangements which remain legal despite the growing clamour for the law to be changed.

PLANT THEFT

Heavy plant, too, can be potential targets for organised crime, though well-concealed electronic 'tracker' devices have led to some notable successes in recovering plant – even whilst being transported in continental Europe.

FUEL THEFT

Relentless increases in fuel prices have been paralleled by more audacious theft of diesel, not only from bulk tanks, but also from individual Large Goods Vehicles, sometimes by way of puncturing the tanks in order to by-pass padlocks.

THEFT OF BATTERIES, SPARES, TOOLS, ETC

These are, perhaps, the more traditional objects of theft.

VANDALISM TO FENCING, SIGNAGE, OTHER PROPERTY; LINK WITH TRESPASS

It is not uncommon for incidents of trespass to be accompanied by damage to signage and/or fencing. Perimeter access controls need to be inspected regularly, the frequency of inspections determined to a large extent by the socio-geographic setting of the site.

SAFEQUARRY CAN HELP

By alerting users to incidents of theft and vandalism, awareness of county-by-county activity can be tracked. The 'learning points' will assist you in reducing your vulnerability to such crimes and, hopefully, to avoiding such situations altogether, or at least avoiding a repeat.

YOU NEED TO BE REGISTERED ON SAFEQUARRY.COM

To take full advantage of this new facility, you need to be registered on <http://www.Safequarry.com> - this takes under 2 minutes – just click the yellow button "**REGISTER for email alerts**" on the homepage.

GENERAL ADVICE (with acknowledgements to Northumbria Police)

- Consider your existing security measures. Do Intruder Alarms, CCTV and adequate lighting cover the site?
- Security lighting is very important - not only does it deter intruders and light up vulnerable areas, but also alerts you to anyone trying to get on to the roof
 - Dusk till dawn security lighting is highly efficient and low-energy, switching on automatically when daylight fades and giving an even spread of light.
 - The other main form of lighting is Passive Infra-Red Detector (PIR), which operates by sensing movement.
- Consider using CCTV with adequate monitoring and recording, accompanied with overt signs around the site. Further information on the legal requirements for using CCTV can be found on the [Information Commissioner website](#) or by calling 01625 545745
- Review the security of perimeter fencing and gates on a regular basis, checking for holes or weak spots that might assist access to your site
- Consider planting prickly shrubs around the perimeter fence such as Pyracanthus or Berberis.
- Where possible keep gates locked and restrict vehicle access to your property or premises
- Remove any means of transporting metal away, such as wheelie bins and wheelbarrows
- Maximise the level of natural surveillance:
- Remove any means where possible intruders could gain access to your roof, such as water butts, wheelie bins and garden furniture.
- Store ladders in a safe place, ideally chained securely to a wall and locked in a secure outbuilding such as a garage or shed.
- Be a good neighbour and encourage members of your community to be vigilant:
 - Consider using external signs asking neighbours to alert police if they see suspicious activity in the neighbourhood.
- Take a note of the appearance and registration numbers of any unfamiliar vehicles. This information can be of great help to police if there is an incident in your area.
- Consider starting or joining a Neighbourhood/Business Watch scheme. Ask [your local Neighbourhood Policing Team](#) for details of schemes in your area.
- Consider applying anti-climb paint to drainpipes and roof guttering, making climbing difficult for offenders. It needs renewing periodically and should only be applied above 2.4 metres from the ground. It must be accompanied by appropriate clear signage, in compliance with the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 and the Health and Safety at Work, etc., Act 1974.
- Use forensic security-marking products to mark metal goods and link thieves to a crime scene. Signs that warn forensic marking are a good deterrent and should be prominently displayed. Details of forensic marking products can be found on the [Secured by Design website](#).

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