

# Construction site management - site temporarily closed

Risk Bulletin

This Bulletin provides best practice advice and guidance for contractors and employers on the precautions that need to be taken if a construction site is temporarily closed.

**This applies where not in conflict with current government advice.**

## Security and Building Safety

- Retain existing out-of-hours security arrangements and extend to provide 24/7 cover where possible

The following is considered best practice:

- Manned security and CCTV where there are theft attractive materials, pipes charged with water and permanent fixtures installed
- Remotely monitored CCTV on sites where there are no theft attractive materials and no piped services installed

Alternatives should be based on a risk assessment and be designed to provide equivalent surveillance or protection. If you are unable to comply with any of the above precautions, please contact RSA to seek further advice

- Where sites are in an arson high risk area, complete a suitable and sufficient risk assessment. The assessment should consider the implications of wilful fire raising;
  - Suitably protect buildings against theft and deliberate fire raising. The most effective method of deterring trespassers is achieved by erecting a suitable and sufficient hoarding around the perimeter of the site, and securing all access points such as windows and doors on refurbishment sites
  - Secure pedestrian access points and vehicle gates with high security closed or concealed shackle padlocks and chains of a commensurate quality. A secure perimeter also provides protection against injury claims from trespassing minors
  - Where the building envelope forms the site perimeter, secure all accessible openings such as ground floor windows and doors and vulnerable higher levels against unauthorised entry. This may be achieved by temporarily boarding such apertures with 18mm plywood or proprietary steel shuttering. Doors and windows should be fitted with locks and secured when the building is vacant. Secure scaffolding to prevent access to the upper levels
  - Remove all flammable liquids, LPG and combustible materials from the site
  - Illumination of the site is an additional deterrent to unauthorised access, and is strongly recommended
  - Consideration should be given to the installation of intruder alarm systems in temporary buildings and temporary accommodation

- Isolate all incoming water mains by either closing the incoming water main valve or having leak or flow detection devices fitted. If the fire protection system, normally sprinklers, is fully charged and in operation, then the water supply to the system must not be isolated
- If pipes are charged with water then frost protection should be provided
- Remove any combustible material from within the construction works and store at least 10m from any works. Remove waste material from the site
- Return all hired plant to the hirers
- On linear sites such as roads and very large open sites, secure all entrances and where appropriate large concrete blocks should be placed across them
- Where provided, security guards should be provided with a list of emergency contacts along with a Fire Grab Pack which should be handed to the Fire Brigade when they attend site
- Where provided, security guards should be trained in how to isolate the water in accordance with the Water Management Plan and make contact with those listed in the emergency plan

## Further information



**RISC Authority - Code of practice for the protection of empty buildings: fire safety and security; 2008**



**Health and Safety Executive document HSG 151**



**Construction Industry Publications Ltd and Fire Protection Association - Fire prevention on construction sites. Joint Code of Practice 9th edition October 2015**

**RSA Risk Consulting remains here to help you evaluate and manage your risks during this period of uncertainty. For any further technical and risk management based questions please contact the following, or your normal risk management advisor.**

For any information relating to the specific details about your policy please speak with your normal insurance advisor.

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