

SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE SAFETY ADVICE SHEET

FIRE PRECAUTIONS FOR WASTE SKIPS AT COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

INTRODUCTION

Each year, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service attends numerous fires involving waste skips outside business premises throughout the county. A large proportion of these fires occur as a consequence of deliberate ignition, and in most cases the fires result in damage to the contents of the skips only. However, in several instances, the fires have spread to adjoining buildings, causing a great deal of damage not only by fire, but also by smoke and other products of combustion. This has led to an inevitable disruption of business and high cost of repairs to owners/occupiers.

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service has a duty to ensure that such matters are brought to your attention and offers the following advice to help you prevent further fires of this nature.

FIRE SPREAD

Skips should not be located too close to buildings. A severe fire involving a skip will almost certainly spread to the adjacent building, not only causing damage but, potentially endangering persons in the building by adversely affecting their means of escape. It is strongly recommended therefore, that skips are sited as far away from buildings as practical, and in any event, should be sited at least 6 metres away.

DELIBERATE IGNITION

The risk of deliberate ignition would be considerably reduced if skips were located away from buildings in a secure, intruder proof compound.

LOCKABLE SKIPS

Use of skips capable of being secured against intruders would be a significant step towards avoiding skip fire incidents. However, it is recommended that space separation is maintained even with this type of skip.

CRIME PREVENTION

In addition to the fire safety advice detailed in this advice sheet, it is recommended that you contact West Mercia Constabulary, who will be able to advise you on any necessary crime prevention measures you may need to take.

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005

In order for you to maintain the safety of your employees and other relevant persons, the above matters should be fully documented in the premises fire risk assessment.

For further information on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 please contact:

- Department for Communities and Local government - <http://www.communities.gov.uk>
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service - www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

Or for general fire safety matters, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service can be reached on **01743 260260** or via our web site at **www.shropshirefire.gov.uk**