

The National Fly-tipping Prevention Group

Tackling Fly-tipping – a summary guide for landowners and land managers

The National Fly-tipping Prevention Group (NFTPG) brings together organisations working with a common aim: coming up with solutions to the problem of fly-tipping. It is chaired by the Environment Agency and membership includes regulatory bodies, government departments, and organisations with a wide membership of landowners and land managers.

This document has been developed to introduce you to the work of the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group and to provide a brief summary of its publication, 'Tackling Fly-tipping: A guide for landowners and land managers'. For more information about this guide, and to obtain a copy of it, please see the final section of this document.

The issue

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste and is a crime. The types of land most commonly affected by fly-tipping include land near to waste management facilities, derelict land, roadsides, back alleys, private land (particularly on the outskirts of urban areas) and watercourses.

The impacts of fly-tipping

Fly-tipping:

- Is a criminal activity that can cause serious pollution of the environment, be a risk to human health and harm wildlife and farm animals;
- Spoils our local neighbourhoods and quality of life;
- Costs an estimated £100m in total to clean up;
- Costs local authorities alone £44m each year to clear up;
- Is seen as a major problem by over three-quarters of landowners; and affects 67 per cent of farmers¹;
- Undermines legitimate waste management companies who are undercut by illegal operators.

For the latest fly-tipping data visit

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture.htm>.

¹ ENCAMS Fly-tipping Survey 2003 www.encams.org



How to prevent fly-tipping

There are a number of steps that land owners and managers can take to prevent fly-tipping on their land. These include some of the following methods:

- Physical improvements such as the installation of gates and barriers and improved visibility;
- Better site management – keeping areas tidy and removing fly-tipped waste quickly;
- Deterrence – this can be in the form of successful prosecutions, signage, CCTV, security patrols etc;
- Working with others including your neighbours, local businesses and any existing partnerships.

How to report an incident

Regardless of whether land is public or private, if you find fly-tipping you should report it. You need to contact either your local authority or the Environment Agency to see if they will investigate or deal with an incident.

Local authorities and the Environment Agency have an agreement called the Fly-tipping Protocol, this sets out the types of incidents each will respond to. It states that:

- **Local authorities** are responsible for dealing with most types of small-scale fly-tipping.
- The **Environment Agency** deals mainly with larger illegal dumping incidents – known as the 'Big, Bad and Nasty'.
 - **Big** incidents are generally those involving more than a tipper load of waste;
 - **Bad** incidents that involve organised crime; and
 - **Nasty** incidents of drummed hazardous wastes which have a greater potential to damage the environment.

You can also report incidents to your local police (you can find the phone number in your local phone directory). Remember, fly-tipping is a crime.

Please note that the NFTPAG cannot respond to incidents of fly-tipping.





Tackling Fly-Tipping – our guide for landowners and land managers

In 2006 the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group produced a guide that provides advice and information for anyone responsible for dealing with fly-tipped waste on land that they own, occupy or manage. It will also be useful to any individuals, groups or organisations that may be affected by fly-tipping. This guidance applies to England and Wales.

It provides a comprehensive yet simple guide to some of the following issues:

- Current legislation aimed at tackling fly-tipping;
- The penalties that can be imposed on offenders;
- What to do if you are a victim of fly-tipping and how to report it;
- An explanation of who has responsibility for dealing with cases of fly-tipping;
- What legal responsibilities landowners and managers have and;
- Tips for preventing fly-tipping.

For a copy of the full guide and for more information about the work of the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group, please visit our website at www.nftpg.org.

