

Plant Security

Version 1.0

Context

FAME H&S Notices are real-world examples of incidents, provided anonymously by FAME members, that highlight learning opportunities for the sector to improve our health and safety working. However, they are not designed to replace existing guidance and this information is provided without any representations or warranties, express or implied. Please seek appropriate Health and Safety Advice.

The Incident

Over the last few weeks FAME members have had several instances of criminal activity relating to plant left on sites, generally overnight and at weekends, including vandalism and theft. This can cause significant disruption on site as well as the risk of injuries (e.g. cuts from damaged metal parts) and increased costs.

Key Take Aways

- If plant has been broken into or vandalised, proceed with caution when inspecting it – there may be broken elements that can cause injury;
- Only have the plant you need on site. If practical, discuss with your manager (if applicable) and off hire any unused plant;
- Ensure fenced compounds are secured (e.g., double clipped) and/or the machine is within a secure site (i.e. hoardings and security found on some larger projects).
- On some sites additional security measures may have to be considered in discussions with clients;
- Remember that “hiding” plant, for example behind hedgerows so as to be out of sight, may not be the best idea—you are just giving those intent on committing crime the privacy they require;
- Ensure that plant is locked and any guards are fitted;
- Never leave plant unlocked (or worse running) when not in use;

- Report any problems promptly and where a crime is suspected ensure that the police have been notified and a crime number issued.