

Who are we?

The Coal Authority is the public body which deals with surface hazards arising from past coal mining activities such as shaft collapses, collapses of shallow mineworkings, gas and water emissions from former coal mines and the spontaneous combustion of coal in the ground. The Authority deal with about 600 such incidents nationally every year.

Our emergency call out service deals with these incidents on a 24 hour basis every day of the year. Upon receiving a report of a suspected coal mining hazard, we will arrange for the situation to be made safe, without consideration of responsibility.

The Authority will respond to surface hazard reports by making them secure, on a without prejudice basis, investigating the cause of incidents and carrying out a permanent treatment where the Authority has a responsibility to do so.



Further Information can be obtained from:

**The Surface Hazards Unit
The Coal Authority
200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG**

**Office Telephone
01623 637000**

**Emergency Telephone
01623 646333**

to report a surface hazard or an emergency concerning a surface hazard (24hrs)



THE COAL AUTHORITY

Surface Hazard Team

Guidance for Stakeholders



What happens immediately?

Once a hazard call is received at the Coal Authority, details of the incident and location are relayed to one of the 6 Mines Rescue Stations situated around the UK. Officers are deployed to attend an incident within 2 hours of instruction to them.

A contractor capable of erecting suitable security fencing around the hazard will also be deployed by the Authority. The Authority has a target of ensuring that a hazard is securely fenced off or otherwise secured within 6 hours of notification to the Authority.

Our representative from the Mines Rescue Service will meet the Stakeholder(s) on site or seek permission to access the site in the absence of the Stakeholder(s) being present.

If we are unsure of land access rights, and we consider that a danger to the public safety exists we will access land to secure a hazard.

In exceptional circumstances the Authority may advise that Stakeholder(s) are temporarily evacuated from their premises and if necessary arrange alternative accommodation.

The Authority will meet reasonable expenses for temporary relocation. In most cases this may be only for a few hours or overnight. Our representatives on site will advise of arrangements if such a recommendation is made.

Security will be provided to premises as necessary whilst the evacuation is in place.

What happens next?

Once the hazard is secured the Authority will inspect its records to ascertain any liability associated with previous coal mining activities.

The Authority undertake to send an Engineer to site within 24 hours of the incident being reported. Often our Engineer will arrive on site during the securing process, and will be able to advise on the process and answer any questions you may have on the situation.

The Authority will then research its own records and notify the Stakeholder(s) of its findings. Occasionally, the Authority may seek permission to undertake ground investigations at the property to assist in the determination of responsibility. These measures will be discussed in full with the Stakeholder(s) by our Engineer.

If it is found that responsibility is not with the Coal Authority, then our Engineer will arrange with the Stakeholder(s) for a convenient time to remove any fencing or temporary securing works.

If responsibility is deemed to lie with the Coal Authority, then normally the commencement of repair works on accepted hazards will take place as soon as practicable.

The Authority shall advise the Stakeholder(s) throughout the process.

It should be noted that in all but exceptional circumstances the above works are undertaken at the Authority's expense.

Safety Matters!

For your own safety please ensure that you or anyone else on your property do not enter into any area which has been fenced off or otherwise secured, or interfere with any equipment erected or installed on your property by the Authority.

In the unlikely event that you notice any change within an area fenced off by the Authority or if you have any concerns then you should immediately contact the Authority's Surface Hazard Unit. In emergencies the Surface Hazard Emergency telephone number should be used.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

01623 646333 (24hr)

