Recycling and recovery UK

Cowen Road Waste Reception and Recycling Centre (HWRC)

1.4 Accident Prevention & Management Plan

September 2025

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DOCUMENT DETAILS

Document title	Cowen Road Waste Reception and Recycling Centre (HWRC) 1.4 Accident Prevention and Management Plan
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DOCUMENT REVIEW HISTORY

Date	Description	Summary of Changes
September 2025	Version 1.0	Original SUEZ document

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TABLES

APPENDICES

1 SITE DETAILS

1.1 Site Activities

1.1.1 Cowen Road HWRC is located at Cowen Road, Blaydon, Gateshead, NE21 5TW; National Grid Reference NZ 19156 63335.

1.1.2 Activities undertaken at the site are detailed below. Refer to the Operations and Emissions Management Plan (document reference 1.2) and Environmental Risk Assessment (document reference 1.3) for full details of site activities.

- Unloading waste
- Manual sorting and separation of waste
- Storing waste
- Light compaction of waste
- RORO container exchange
- Loading and unloading waste containers and vehicles

1.1.3 The COSHH index details the substances stored on site and the location in which they are stored. Gas cylinders are stored externally (upright in a secure cage). Any non-waste chemicals, oils and cleaning equipment are stored internally in specified areas / cupboards.

1.1.4 Control measures to mitigate potential accidents within SUEZ's control are listed within Table 2.

1.2 Emergency Contacts

1.2.1 Contact details for stakeholders who may need to be contacted in the event of an emergency are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Emergency Contacts

Name	Organisation	Contact Number
Environment Agency	Regulator	0800 80 70 60
SUEZ 24-hour emergency number	SUEZ	08000 648887
Emma-Louise Smith (Senior Site Manager)		07870 540585
Charlotte Archibald (Processing Contract Manager)		07974 233081
Steve Yorke (Health & Safety Manager)		07977 526313
Kathryn Ogden (EIR Manager)		07528 971583

1.3 Accident Investigation

1.3.1 IMS – Accident Investigation and Reporting, describes the methods for reporting, recording and investigating accidents and near misses (including the forms required).

1.3.2 All accidents shall be reported and recorded in a timely manner and shall be investigated as soon as practicable, which may include an Incident Review Panel, dependant on the severity of the incident.

1.3.3 Investigation findings shall be recorded and preventative measures, where identified, shall be implemented as soon as practicable.

Table 2: Accident Prevention and Management Assessment

Accident	Avoidance Measures	Impact Minimisation Measures	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Rating
Spillage of oil, fuel or hydraulic fluid from plant colliding with infrastructure, mechanical failure, leak during refuelling / maintenance or leak from storage containers.	No fuel storage takes place on site. All other oil storage on site takes place in accordance with the control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 and are located on impermeable surface and in suitably bunded containers. Daily inspection of oil/waste containers. Preventative maintenance schedules for all fixed and hook lift vehicles. Ongoing site inspection and corrective action procedure. Waste vehicle drivers are required to sign for a copy of the site specific procedures and must comply with SUEZ's operational practices whilst on site.	The site is provided with impermeable surfaces to prevent the transmission of potentially contaminated liquids into groundwater beneath the site Any bunding to be kept clear of accumulating liquids to ensure capacity of containment systems is maintained. Spill kits provided at suitable locations around site, with staff trained in their use. The site's water drainage network directs the uncontaminated run off to surface water. The IMS includes emergency spillage procedures to ensure that spillages/leaks onto the hardstanding are cleared immediately upon detection before entering the drainage system using absorbent granules. The waste granules are sent to a suitably licensed disposal facility.	Low	Medium - pollution of local water courses, groundwater and aquifers	Low
Vandalism to oil or waste storage infrastructure	CCTV plus site security fencing and gates are installed to discourage unauthorised access to the site. Security is managed by the permit holder (Gateshead Council). IMS procedures include a daily requirement to check the condition of the security measures and take appropriate remedial action in the event of any damage.	As above	Very Low	Medium - pollution of local water courses, groundwater and aquifers	Low

Accident	Avoidance Measures	Impact Minimisation Measures	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Rating
Fire	Site security measures are in place to prevent unauthorised access to the site. CCTV monitored by Gateshead Council outside of operational hours. Waste acceptance measures are in place as detailed in the Waste Storage Plan All wastes are stored in containers and managed in line with the Waste Storage Plan. Smoking is not allowed on site. Regular cleaning implemented on site Regular maintenance of vehicles and electrical installation Hot works carried out under Permit to Work (PTW) system.	Regular checks of fire safety equipment are carried out as per the IMS. Firefighting equipment is located at strategic locations. Fire hydrants are located on the main access to site. Limited volumes of combustible wastes are stored on site. Wastes are segregated and stored within appropriate containers and on impermeable surfacing to act as a fire break and prevent the spread of fire from one container to another.	Low	Medium	Medium
Flooding	See Climate Change Risk Assessment and Business Contingency and Continuity Plan	A Climate Change Risk Assessment is in place for the facility	Low	Low	Low
Enforced shutdown	See Business Contingency and Continuity Plan	Business Contingency & Continuity Plan in place - ability to divert and remove waste to other nearby facilities at short notice	Low	Low	Low

Appendices

Appendix A – Probability And Consequence Assessment Definitions

Accident: An unplanned event which may cause harm or potential harm to an environmental receptor

Probability: Probability of exposure is the likelihood of the receptors being exposed to the hazard

Probability	Definition
High (H)	High – exposure is probable: direct exposure likely with no / few barriers between hazard source and receptor.
Medium (M)	Medium – exposure is fairly probable: feasible exposure possible - barriers to exposure less controllable.
Low (L)	Low – exposure is unlikely: several barriers exist between hazards source and receptors to mitigate against exposure.
Very Low (VL)	Very Low – exposure is very unlikely: effective, multiple barriers in place to mitigate against exposure.

Consequence: The adverse effects or impacts of a hazard being realised upon a receptor:

Consequence	Definition
High (H)	Possible irreparable damage to environmental resources
Medium (M)	Possible damage to environmental resources which are limited within a regional context
Low (L)	Possible effects might be transient damage to environmental resources which are commonplace on a regional basis and alternative resources are readily available
Very Low (VL)	The effects are negligible or might cause very slight temporary deterioration in the current environmental resource quality.

Risk Estimation Matrix

Risk: A combination of the probability, or frequency, of occurrence of a defined hazard and the consequence and magnitude of impact. The general High (H), Medium (M), Low (L) and Very Low (VL) ratings listed in Table 1, are for use as a guide only based on:

Matrix for the Estimation of the Risk				
	Consequence			
Probability of the Risk	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
High	High	High	Medium	Low
Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Low
Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
Very Low	Low	Low	Low	Low