

# Ansa Environmental Services Statement

## Middlewich Site Explosion - Incident Actions

On Saturday 30 October 2021, during an operational shift in the Waste Transfer Station Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) facility, a gas cylinder which had been incorrectly put into the waste stream by a member of the public, was loaded into the shredder for processing into RDF. The cylinder was pierced by the shredder, allowing the pressure, and contained residues to escape into the operational area causing an explosion and a small flash fire.

The on-site operational staff immediately started to deal with the incident and exercising caution, they also contacted the Fire Service at the earliest opportunity for assistance. The fire was extinguished very quickly and was in fact, out before the fire service arrived on site.

No one was injured and the machinery, as well as the facility, were thoroughly checked for any incident-related damage that might require immediate attention. Our investigation has confirmed that, with the exception of the noise of the explosion, there has been no impact on the local environment. At Ansa, we strive to be a good neighbour and take our safety and environmental responsibilities very seriously. Following this incident, we have implemented several measures to ensure immediate and long-term improvements to our systems and processes. The measures we have taken will ensure the likelihood of a recurrence is reduced as much as possible.

### Immediate action taken:

1. We have instigated an additional step in our waste acceptance procedures to improve the identification of potential hidden hazards within collected waste.
2. We have successfully trialled and are now using a different item of machinery to improve the visibility of items that are put into the RDF waste processing procedure.
3. We have provided targeted waste education programmes to improve awareness of the risk regarding the incorrect disposal of cylinders within residual waste streams.
4. We have reviewed our compliance documentation and updated this where relevant.

### Long-term actions:

1. We will review the improvements in place to assess the effectiveness of the new measures in line with our health, safety and environmental objectives.
2. We will continue to conduct an ongoing review of accidents and near-misses to ensure the scope of any potential incidents are identified and remedial measures are investigated at an early stage.

3. We will continue to work with our local communities to provide waste education and awareness of the correct disposal routes for different waste materials.
4. We will continue to work with our suppliers and industry contacts to share best practice, experience and feedback.

Our number one priority as a local employer is the health and safety of our workforce and the public we serve. If you have any concerns, please do contact us in the first instance. Hopefully, you will be happy with our response, but you can also contact the Environment Agency too.

We will continue to strive for excellence and transparency in all areas of our business and if you have any concerns, please email [reception@ansa.co.uk](mailto:reception@ansa.co.uk). Your query will be sent to the relevant department.