

Why have there been so many fires at Hollingdean's Waste Transfer Station?

Reports from the public meeting on 26 February 2020 following the major fire at the Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station on **25th & 26th August 2019**.

https://roundhill.org.uk/main?sec=planning&p=Veolia_Fire-Safety_Concerns

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/18701817.hollingdean-depot-fire-theyre-hoping-everyone-will-forget/>

A second fire on September 2020.

A third fire on 29th September 2021

<https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2021/10/05/fire-at-brighton-waste-transfer-site-reignites-neighbours-safety-concerns/>

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/19628333.safety-fears-fire-veolia-waste-site-hollingdean/>

The Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station in Brighton has experienced multiple fires over recent years, primarily due to the improper disposal of hazardous items in household waste. Investigations by East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and Veolia have identified that smouldering disposable barbecues, often discarded in public litter bins along the seafront, are a common cause. When these are not fully extinguished, they can ignite other waste materials upon collection and transfer to the facility. [Brighton and Hove News](#)[Brighton and Hove News+4Brighton & Hove City Council+4Brighton and Hove News+4Brighton Journal+1Brighton and Hove News+1](#)

Additionally, lithium-ion batteries from electronic devices like e-scooters and mobile phones have been implicated in fires at the depot and in collection vehicles. These batteries can explode or catch fire if damaged or improperly disposed of, posing significant risks during waste processing. [Brighton and Hove News](#)

Local residents have raised concerns about the facility's location in a densely populated area, citing health risks from smoke and inadequate fire safety measures. The waste transfer station lacks a sprinkler system, and its design does not effectively contain smoke or odors, exacerbating the impact of fires on the surrounding community. [Brighton and Hove News+2Brighton and Hove News+2SussexWorld+2Brighton and Hove News](#)

In response to these incidents, measures such as implementing new protocols for checking litter bins for smouldering items and considering the installation of sprinkler systems have been

discussed. However, residents continue to advocate for more robust safety measures or the relocation of the facility to mitigate ongoing risks .

Has a sprinkler system now been fitted within Hollingdean's Waste Transfer Station following the fires?

Yes, as of June 2020, a full fire suppression system, including sprinklers, was installed at the Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station. This upgrade was part of a broader initiative by Veolia to enhance fire safety across all three of its waste transfer stations in East Sussex, following a significant fire in August 2019. The improvements also included the installation of advanced fire detection systems and the construction of internal fire break walls to prevent the spread of fires .[The Round Hill Society+1](#)[The Round Hill Society+1](#)

Prior to these enhancements, the Waste Transfer Station lacked a sprinkler system, unlike the adjacent Materials Recovery Facility, which had one in place. This absence had been a point of concern for local residents and council members, especially given the station's proximity to densely populated areas and schools .[Brighton & Hove Democracy](#)[Brighton and Hove News](#)

The costs for these fire safety improvements were borne by Veolia, not the local council, as part of their contractual obligations to maintain safe operations at their facilities .[The Round Hill Society+1](#)[The Round Hill Society+1](#)

While these measures have addressed some safety concerns, community members continue to express apprehensions about the site's location and overall suitability, advocating for ongoing reviews and potential relocation discussions.

Return to https://roundhill.org.uk/main?sec=planning&p=Hollingdean_Depot