

Disposing of an item that could be seen as dangerous? Don't take it to a recycling centre...contact the police



Posted on: 18 January 2019

Members of the public who wish to dispose of objects which could be perceived as dangerous such as ammunition, flares or smoke grenades are urged to contact police and not take them to Devon's Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The warning follows the evacuation and closure of Exmouth's Knowle Hill Recycling Centre on Thursday afternoon after a suspicious item that looked like a grenade was found in a metal skip.

The police were called who in turn called the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. They removed one live and two spent smoke grenades from the site.

There have been several similar incidents across Devon, including at Knowle Hill in 2016, where a centre has had to close after a potentially hazardous item or items were brought in by members of the public.

All the closures wasted the valuable time and resources of the police and bomb disposal teams, as well as recycling centre staff and led to the inconvenience of other site users.

And each time the closure was avoidable – if the owner of the item had given some thought to how the item could be perceived.