How to deal with fly-tipped asbestos waste

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you recognise fly-tipped material as containing asbestos that you need to deal with.

Preparation of the work area
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Use tape and notices to warn others.

Equipment
- 1000-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Shovel
- Tent pegs
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent, e.g. diluted washing-up liquid
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag
- Asbestos warning stickers

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet em6
- Provide:
  - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
  - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate);
  - respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

Procedure
- Notify the relevant authority.
- Estimate the amount and type of asbestos waste.
- If the waste is spread around or mixed with non-asbestos material, get an HSE-licensed contractor to deal with it.
- Disposal – see sheet em9.
Small amount of any asbestos-containing waste
- Dampen and place pieces in an asbestos waste bag.
- Shovel damp residues into the bag.

Large amount of asbestos-containing waste
- Cover the waste securely with 1000-gauge polythene sheet. Peg it down with tent pegs. Attach asbestos warning stickers.
- Mark out an exclusion zone with warning tape.
- If the waste is in an inhabited area, make arrangements to secure the site until it is removed.

Cleaning and disposal
- Clean the equipment with damp rags.
- Put used rags and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene bag and tape it closed.
- Disposal – see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination
See sheet em8.

Other hazards
There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.