



## Disaster Response Advisory

### Georgia Flooding Recovery Will Drive Demand For Equipment

#### EQUIPMENT OWNERS , DEALERS AND RENTAL OPERATORS ADVISED TO BE ON GUARD FOR THEFTS GENERATED BY ANTICIPATED STORM CLEAN UP

Unable to view this message? See: [www.stopequipmenttheft.com/Hotlist.html](http://www.stopequipmenttheft.com/Hotlist.html)

Equipment owners, dealers and rental companies throughout the Southeast region should make equipment security an aspect of their response to the recent flooding in Georgia. When the clean up efforts begin, the vulnerability of and demand for equipment will undoubtedly result in increased thefts- owners taking steps to address this will be less likely to be targeted.



#### For Law Enforcement:

- Owners may be unable to report thefts, and may be unaware of thefts in the flood effected areas- if you are in doubt of an operator's legitimate possession of equipment, contact NICB **800-447-6282** for a search of NER's equipment ownership records and fleet registration.
- Independent and national rental companies, contractors and local dealers may be difficult to reach in the effected areas- NER maintains local and national management contacts and emergency contact information for member fleets. Contact NICB **800-447-6282** or NER **866-663-7872** for this information.

## **For Equipment Owners:**

Con artists and unscrupulous contractors will descend on the areas impacted by the flooding. Past storms show that they will collect equipment along the way, by theft and fraud. With the slowdown in business lately, do not let the increased business generated by the floods diminish your vigilance in protecting your assets.

- Specialty equipment such as Brush Chippers, Stump Grinders, and especially Pumps and Flood Remediation Equipment should particularly be protected.
- Excavation Equipment should not be left on job sites- rental companies should educate clients on their responsibility for machine security and the heightened theft threat.
- Do not let machines called off rent languish- get machines back to the yard or on to the next client as soon as possible. If pickup cannot be arranged, work with your client to secure the machine until you can retrieve it.
- Rental Companies and Dealers must be wary of out of state customers and local customers you have no business history with:
  - Verify local references- do not rely solely on names and phone numbers provided by the customer.
  - Verify all credit account rentals by company employees unfamiliar to you- call a contact you know at the company to confirm authorization for the employee to rent.
  - Get detailed information on where machines will be used, and check out the site. Contact the general contractor or property owner.
  - Don't assume a credit card is valid because the deposit pre-authorizes. Call the issuer to ensure there is no potential problem. Contact your card services fraud department for advice and assistance.
  - Be very cautious if clients want to provide their own transportation- this is a common trend in both rental and purchase frauds. Insist on delivering machines, and educate your delivery personnel to recognize a suspicious drop off location.
  - Think about how you will locate and retrieve the equipment if the transaction ends up fraudulent.
  - Insist on a maintenance check on the machine.
  - Require 24 or 48 hour rental renewal for unknown customers.
  - Conduct a spot check on machines to ensure the drop off location was not just a staging area to load your machines onto the thieves' transport.
  - Most importantly- go with your gut, and communicate with your local industry. If something suspicious occurs, contact other local companies to keep a look out.
- All owners should take this opportunity to be sure your NER registration is up to date- be sure your emergency contact information is current, and update any new machine additions.
- Communicate with local Law Enforcement- let them know thefts potentially will be on the rise due to the flooding so that their patrol personnel can be on alert for break ins and odd hour transports.

Please report thefts to NER as soon as possible- simply reply to this message with theft details, call NER at 866-663-7872 option 2, or submit a theft online at [http://nerusa.com/submit\\_theft.asp](http://nerusa.com/submit_theft.asp)

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL NER MEMBERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
IN THE FLOOD STRICKEN AREAS**

### **National Equipment Register**

545 Washington Blvd Jersey City, NJ 07310  
866-663-7872 [info@nerusa.com](mailto:info@nerusa.com)

**[www.nerusa.com](http://www.nerusa.com)**