

Thanksgiving Holiday Preparedness

With the Thanksgiving Holiday approaching, Law Enforcement and the Equipment Industry nationwide should be gearing up for the threat of equipment thefts. The steady rate of thefts this fall indicates continued criminal activity involving equipment; thieves may take advantage of vulnerable dealerships, contractor yards, farms and construction sites to steal both secured and unsecured equipment.

Implement Preparations Now to Prevent Thefts



Industry Preparations:

- Ensure alarms and lighting are all operating properly.
- If you are getting a high number of false alarms, thieves may be testing your responsiveness; watch for vehicles “casing” your property. A guard over the holiday could be money well spent.
- Test cameras in daylight and after dark- are the images capturing license plates, faces, etc?
- Make sure fences and gates provide a complete barrier to adjoining businesses and vacant land.
- Move light or highly targeted equipment into service bays or more secure areas of the yard.
- Be sure where machines and trucks are parked do not provide cover to thieves.
- Conduct a security survey of the yard and buildings- walk around the property to see if there are vulnerable points of access or cover.
- Communicate with neighboring businesses, especially those which will be open during the holiday; raise their awareness so that thefts in progress are recognized, and be sure their staff have your emergency contact information.
- Designate someone to check up on the facility at different times during the holiday.
- Should a break- in occur, be prepared to respond:
 - Beforehand, determine what police agency to report to and do so quickly when a theft or attempted break-in is discovered.
 - Get information on what was stolen out to other companies and clients as soon as possible.
 - Report any thefts to NER as soon as is practical, and contact NER on any equipment identification/Serial Number questions.
- Review your fleet inventory:

- Update new equipment.
- Physically verify serial numbers/PINs- is what's on the machine plate accurately recorded in your records?
- Update your NER fleet registration, and be sure your emergency contact details are accurate on NER.

- Keep in mind thefts also spike during the days leading up to and just after the holiday.

For detailed theft prevention information, download the NER theft prevention guide at:

www.nerusa.com/includes/WebLossPrevention.pdf

Law Enforcement Preparations:

- Talk to the Patrol units working the holiday- be sure they are aware of the heightened equipment theft threat.
- Be sure Patrol and Dispatch have a fundamental understanding of how to spot an equipment theft, and how to contact NICB for assistance.
- NICB can provide NER's owner records on 15 million machines including most rental equipment.
- NER maintains emergency contact information for all owners, fleets and rental companies registered with NER.
- **NCIC cannot confirm a machine is NOT STOLEN- Contact NICB for NER ownership data on any suspicious machine.**

Be On The Look Out!

It's not a question of if but where and when: Heavy Equipment and Rental Equipment will be stolen Nationwide over the Holiday

NER asks both Law Enforcement and the Industry to be watchful of rental facilities, dealerships, farms and construction sites for activity that seems out of place throughout the holiday:

- Trucks parked at rental yards and dealerships that do not belong to the company- especially box vans, U-hauls and enclosed car hauler type trailers.
- Vehicles parked in vacant lots and parking lots adjoining industry businesses, especially with occupants loitering in the area.
- Gates left open at industry facilities when it's clear the facility is shut down.
- Late night or early morning activity inside a yard, construction site, farm or store throughout the holiday.
- Heavily and hastily loaded rental company trucks on roadways throughout the holiday.

Law Enforcement personnel are encouraged to verify ownership or rental status on any equipment in transit as it may be an undiscovered theft- Contact NICB 24 hours a day for access to NER's ownership and fleet records- **800-447-6282**

Industry personnel are encouraged to contact local Law Enforcement on suspicious activity; being in the industry you know when something does not seem right - don't let it just go.

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