

THEFT

A stolen piece of equipment or material can shut the job down temporarily, and insurance costs are bound to rise if we are forced to make a claim.

Rental companies may refuse to rent to us if we don't properly guard their assets. The company reputation can be severely damaged through vandal actions or repeated thefts. Failure to act in a pre-emptive way to avoid theft and vandalism is irresponsible and unnecessary.

An estimated 90% of all equipment thefts take place between 6 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Monday and on holidays.

- Sites are most vulnerable on weekends.
- Tools are most popular.
- Appliances are popular as well.
- Scrap metal/copper prices are high so scrap metals in the open is an invitation to thieves.

We all must be committed to stopping theft and vandalism on our sites by taking action with local stakeholders and law enforcement. The following are examples of actions we can take:

- Build relationships with other project contractors, law enforcement, local suppliers, scrap metal companies in the area, and local pawn shops.
- Talk to the community and neighborhood associations we are building in for their support.
- We can even sign local Police Authority to Arrest for Trespass form and post a sign at the entrance that makes this notification.

Other actions that will help prevent or recover stolen equipment:

- Keep records of equipment serial numbers
- Post after-hour contacts at the site.
- Post signs:
 - "Private Property"
 - "Security Cameras in Use"
 - "No Trespassing"
 - Reward Program Signs – Use on gates, buildings, perimeter fencing, tool sheds, and job trailers.
 - Reward Decals – These highly visible decals can be used on gang boxes, trailers, small equipment, storage sheds, and large tools. Buyers of stolen equipment will see them.

Surveillance Cameras – The idea of being caught on video is a great low-cost deterrent to theft.

- Can be transferred from one jobsite to the next.
- Video streams are transferred to any location in the world using a standard PC.
- May include motion detection and two-way audio.

Other actions that can be taken to prevent theft:

- Have someone check out the site several times over the weekend.
- Secure storage sheds with good locks. Install locks as soon as possible.
- Challenge strangers on your property or job sites. Show them you are on the alert.
- Keep entrances and gates to a minimum. Lock gates when you are done for the day.
- If you store equipment keys on a keyboard, have someone take the keyboard home.
- Mark your equipment- i.e. weld IWS on equipment.
- Stencil a unique code or set of numbers on equipment.
- Put numbers in two spots: hidden and obvious.
- Paint parts of equipment with distinctive color marking without making it obvious.
- Paint tools all the same color.
- Paint an identifier in a hidden spot.
- Die Stamp with the electric engravers.
- Re-key your equipment – most construction equipment is commonly keyed.
- Do not leave equipment with keys in them.
- Keep equipment and supplies locked up in a securable storage shed or conex box.
- Use locking gas caps and oil caps on equipment and vehicles. Lock cabs.
- Cluster equipment. Plan to end the day with near empty tanks.
- Keep equipment and supplies locked up in a securable storage shed.
- Install GPS trackers hidden in vulnerable equipment.

Talk with the crews about techniques that can be used to increase security and reduce opportunities for thieves.