



MANAGING RISK:

VANDALISM & THEFT PREVENTION

What's at Risk

Industry experts estimate equipment theft and vandalism on construction sites cost companies billions of dollars a year. Construction theft includes materials such as timber and other valuable commodities (scrap metal and copper); tools; and equipment such as bulldozers, backhoes, generators and welders.

Vandalism on worksites includes broken glass, graffiti, destruction of constructed work and damage to equipment and vehicles on site.

Research shows that construction sites are most vulnerable to theft on weekends and an estimated 90% of all construction thefts take place between 6:00pm Friday and 6:00am Monday.

Smart, sound preventative measures can dramatically reduce theft and vandalism losses on construction worksites.

Following are several measures to put into place on all construction sites and vacant properties.



Helpful Tips to Better Protect your worksite

- Make sure the property is well lit to discourage criminal activity by eliminating hiding places and raising the risk of discovery. Motion-activated lighting can be a very effective deterrent.
- Install fencing around the entire worksite, including storage areas and trailers, to prevent unauthorized access to the site and, in the event someone gains unauthorized access, to limit their ability to remove property from the site. Make sure the security fence is closed and locked each night.
- Consider installing video surveillance or hiring a private security guard, depending on the size of the project.
- Post large warning signs.
- Secure and lock up equipment during off-hours. Contractors or mobile equipment owners may also want to install tracking devices on machinery to facilitate location and recovery of any stolen equipment.
- When possible, immobilize equipment at the end of each workday. For example, install hidden fuel shut-off systems in the equipment, or remove the fuses and circuit breakers when equipment is left unattended.
- Also, after hours and on weekends, make sure equipment is placed in such a way that it is difficult to move.
- Surround smaller pieces of equipment with larger ones.
- Keep an inventory of all tools, equipment and anything of value kept on the worksite.
- Remove equipment, tools, and other materials from the worksite as soon as they are no longer needed.
- Require workers to sign tools in and out to better track them.
- Require all keys to be signed in and out and limit the people on the site who are able to sign out keys.
- Encourage all employees to be security conscious when on the worksite.
- Be sure that all deliveries are planned ahead of time so that someone will be onsite to secure packages.
- Planning for deliveries will also decrease the risk of any
 - unauthorized personnel accessing the site.
- Ensure workers promptly report all incidents of theft or vandalism. Contact local authorities immediately if a theft or vandalism has occurred.
- Maintain complete records of all incidents of theft or vandalism.
- Reach out to adjoining properties or local neighborhood watch groups and ask them to report any suspicious activity that they see on the worksite.

