



A Safety Bulletin from Glass Insurance Center

Control Construction Site Losses

Theft of tools and equipment from construction job sites has increasingly become a major issue for contractors. Nationwide it is estimated that as much as \$1 billion of construction equipment is stolen annually, with approximately 90% taken off job sites. A combination of inadequate job site security, equipment mobility, and high values make it a prime target for criminal activity.

While this is a very tough issue to deal with, agents are in a position to help their contractor accounts better control these losses. By sharing and promoting the following tips, we can help prevent equipment theft and the direct and indirect costs associated with it:

- Establish specific security procedures and assign responsibility for carrying out these prevention measures. This could include establishing “end-of-day” security practices such as battery removal, ignition key removal, locking of cabs and compartments, and conducting final inspection of the site.
- Establish site-specific security measures as part of the job pre-start planning process. Possible items to be addressed might include equipment storage procedures and arrangements, temporary lighting and fencing, and requesting assistance from local police for additional patrol. Included in this would be discussing theft prevention of key items such as a skid steer loader. One possibility is to block or confine movement of the loader by parking it tightly between trucks.
- Equip all wheeled equipment with movement prevention devices such as locks, chains, and removable trailer hitches.
- Use immobilizer devices such as wheel locks, fuel shutoffs, and ignition locks.
- Provide high value equipment with company serial numbers that are placed in an inconspicuous location on the equipment.
- For high value equipment, consider installing a satellite-tracking device, which is part of a system, designed to track and rapidly recover stolen items.

While it is unlikely the scourge of contractor equipment theft will ever be eliminated, sharing these best practice tips with you will help prevent theft losses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.