

NER wishes all of our clients and Law Enforcement partners a happy and safe Memorial Day Holiday. We also wish everyone a crime free holiday. The reality is that thieves undoubtedly will be active over the holiday, as recent reports to NER indicate increased theft activity for 2019.

Equipment theft rates mirror the overall economy; 2019 appears to follow this trend with increased equipment theft activity in many major metro areas that are also seeing increased building and road projects. The used equipment market is strong this spring, and thefts follow the same pattern. Demand for Backhoes in Texas and Compact Tracked Loaders in southeastern states translates to active thefts of these machines in areas like Dallas/Fort Worth, Charlotte, Atlanta and Nashville.

The theft of new equipment from dealer yards continues to be a problem, as it is every spring. Dealers in all areas should be aware of the heightened threat of thefts especially of Utility Vehicles, Compact Tractors and Commercial Mowers.

Equipment rental fraud was a major issue in 2018. Despite several large busts, rental operators need to be vigilant again in 2019 as indicated by frauds in [Michigan & Ohio](#)

With the threat of equipment theft, try to do something proactive to prevent this crime from occurring. Small steps and minor attention to details may be all it takes to deter an opportunistic thief that is targeting your area. Below are a few fundamentals for both Law Enforcement and equipment owners.

If you are the victim of a theft or receive a theft report, please report it to [NER online](#), or email NER at info@ner.net with as little as the machine make, model and serial number plus the date and location of theft, and we'll enter it for you. Want an NER alert on the theft? Let us know when we follow up.

Equipment Crime Warning Signs

NER asks both Law Enforcement and the Industry to be watchful of activity that seems out of place:

- Trucks parked at rental yards and dealerships that do not belong to the company- especially box vans, U-hauls and enclosed race-car hauler type trailers.
- Vehicles parked in vacant lots and parking lots adjoining closed 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.
- Overloaded trucks and improperly secured equipment transported 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 equipment ownership registration data and fleet records- 800-447-6282

Industry personnel are encouraged to contact local Law Enforcement (911) about any suspicious activity; being in the industry you know when something does not seem right - ***don't let it go.***

Be Proactive

A few ideas for both Law Enforcement and the Industry

Law Enforcement

- Ensure that patrol and dispatch personnel are aware of the heightened equipment theft threat, have a fundamental understanding of how to spot an equipment theft, and how to contact NICB for assistance at 800-447-6282.
- NICB can provide NER's equipment ownership registration information on machines, including most rental equipment.
- NER maintains emergency contact information for owners, fleets and rental companies whose equipment is registered with NER.
- NCIC cannot confirm a machine is NOT STOLEN- Contact NICB for NER ownership registration on any suspicious machine that comes back negative for theft and verify its status with the owner.
- Law Enforcement may access NER's owner registration data online- register for free by clicking "Register" at <https://application.ner.net/NER.WEB/login>

Industry

- 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. Contact local Police.
- Test cameras in daylight and after dark- are you getting usable images of license plates, faces, and vehicles?
- Make sure fences and gates provide a complete barrier to adjoining businesses and vacant land. Don't assume they are intact. Walk your fence line to be sure nothing has been tampered with.
- Conduct a security survey of the yard and buildings. Walk around the property to see if there are vulnerable points of access or cover.
- Move light or highly targeted equipment into service bays or more secure areas of the yard.
- Be sure where machines and trucks are parked does not provide cover to thieves.
- Communicate with neighboring businesses, especially those which will be open during the holiday; raise their awareness so that thefts in progress are recognized. Be sure their staff have your emergency contact information.
- Designate someone to check up on the facility at different times during the holiday. Random activity at your location could spoil a thief's planning.
- ***Don't leave ANYTHING on a trailer.*** Secure any trailers, whether loaded or not, so that thieves cannot use them to steal your equipment.

Review your fleet inventory on NER:

- Update new equipment.
- Physically verify serial numbers/PINs- is what's on the machine ID plate accurately recorded in your records?
- Update your NER fleet registration and be sure your emergency contact details are accurate on your NER registration.
- If you have difficulty logging in, call an NER analyst 866-663-7872, or email info@ner.net

For more suggestions, see NER's [Spring Crime Prevention Tune Up](#)