



THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

CICP HOLIDAY INFORMATIONAL

CICP MEMBERS:

The Construction Industry Crime Prevention Program would like to wish you Happy Holidays. The holiday season is a time for cheer and goodwill, but it also gives criminals many opportunities to ruin the holiday spirit. CICP offers the following tips for staying safe and protecting your valuables. Your construction site is like a free ATM for thieves and informational safety tips will help you lock it down, especially over the holidays and work breaks.

Construction theft is literally and figuratively big business. CICP and AGC estimate annual losses at approximately \$1 billion. Contractors, equipment dealers, insurance companies and equipment manufacturers all suffer when job sites are vandalized or equipment and materials are stolen. The occurrence of theft and vandalism at construction sites is not new. This is a national problem that will not go away. Whether we like it or not, this will continue and what the construction industry must do is try to limit the incidents as much as possible by making it difficult for the perpetrators to succeed.

A stolen piece of equipment or material can shutdown the job temporarily. Insurance costs are bound to rise and rental companies may refuse to rent to those who do not properly guard their assets. Company reputations can be severely damaged by repeated thefts and vandalism. CICP's Executive Director David Arebalos says failure to act preemptively to

avoid theft and vandalism is irresponsible and unnecessary. The FBI says that an estimated 90% of all equipment thefts occur between Friday at 6 p.m. and Monday at 6 a.m. followed by holidays and weeknights.

CICP QUICK TIPS

1. Disable and defensively park machines you leave on site. There are a number of safe and simple ways to disable vehicles left on your site. For example, you can remove tires and disconnect batteries. Furthermore, parking high-target vehicles inside a ring of lesser-valued vehicles makes them harder to steal.
2. Don't leave trailers loaded. If you are storing equipment or materials on trailers, you expose yourself to thieves who cut through the trailer or simply hitch the trailer up to their own vehicle. Consider removing the hitch or putting the trailer up on jacks if you have no other alternative.
3. Limit weekend or holiday access. Can you stop weekend or holiday access all together? Repeatedly, the thieves we catch are insiders and sub contractors who **SEEM** to have every right to be on the site. Forbid holiday access to your construction site so that **ANYONE** on site will be treated as unauthorized.
4. Walk or drive the perimeter of your job site. Check to see if all the gates are locked. Is the entirety of the perimeter fenced in? These last minute checks before weekends and holidays can help you spot potential problems. Be sure to manually check all locks and make sure someone did not just turn a lock without completely locking it.
5. Take inventory. This will help you know exactly what is there. Having a complete job site inventory will help you in the event of a break in. This way you can provide complete serial numbers and product quantities to CICP and authorities.

6. Spread the word about your security to employees and subs. Inform your employees and subs that you have taken special security precautions. Be sure to advise them of CICIP's reward program and make sure you mention it on a regular basis. Never underestimate the power of buzz among your employees and subs. If they know you are taking serious security measures, it will deter theft.
7. Protect yourself against copper theft, which is increasing worldwide. Demand for copper has caused copper prices to skyrocket, reaching all-time highs within the past five years. At specific locations such as commercial buildings and construction sites, copper can be found in abundance and is relatively easy to steal. Once stolen, it's virtually impossible for authorities to track or recover it from recyclers. This makes copper theft a low-risk, high-profit crime that many thieves can't resist. Our members, Bruno's Iron and Metal and Western Metal Company remind everyone that copper prices remain over \$3.20. These high prices put job sites at risk. Secondly, secure your fuel-burning vehicles in a position facing the street. This makes it easy for people to keep an eye on your gas tanks.
8. Post appropriate CICIP signs. A big part of security is simply informing potential thieves about your defenses. Your signs can be purchased at our office and can be delivered within a day. You can visit our website at www.cicpp.org for signs and prices.
9. Ask your neighbors for help. Whether building in a residential community or a commercial development, it is very important to solicit help from nearby residents or businesses. Share your building schedule with them and ask them to notify authorities and CICIP by calling 1-888-572-3667, if they see anything suspicious on your property. Remind them of the CICIP reward system, which will pay up to \$1,000.00 for information resulting in the arrest, restitution or recovery of equipment, material and property. This is

especially effective if you have mandated a non-entry policy for the weekend, after hours or during holidays.

10. Lighting. The appropriate use of lighting can be an effective deterrent of theft and vandalism on the construction job site. It is particularly effective in deterring the casual or impulse offender. Among the locations on the job site that should be appropriately lit are the office trailer(s), equipment storage trailer(s), material storage yard and any equipment storage areas. These areas should be ideally illuminated to a minimum of a one foot-candle at ground level. These areas should be visible from the most heavily traveled road bordering the construction job site. Lighting systems triggered by a motion detector or a passive infrared sensor is also recommended for the job site. Such sensors give the impression an intrusion has been detected and may warn neighbors of potential intruders.
11. Fencing around the job site. Fencing is particularly important on the construction job site. Ideally, the entire job site should be enclosed with sturdy fencing. If it is not practical to enclose the entire job site, at a minimum the area around trailers and material storage should be enclosed. If possible, there should only be one or two access points or gates through the fencing. This makes access control easier. Chain link fencing topped by multiple strands of barbed wire is recommended. Chain link fencing allows for surveillance by police and by neighbors.

As the Executive Director of CICIP, I have had many meetings with contractors and have discussed construction theft and prevention at the job site and company offices. Most contractors are already working to secure their equipment on work sites, but the strategies need to be repeated. We all agree that thieves have become bolder, breaking into construction sites and stealing anything that is not secured.

CICIP is always happy when the Holidays approach as it gives us yet

another opportunity to thank all of our members. This past year has been good to us and we thank you for your continued support and for allowing us to be of service to you. The CICP Board of Directors and myself, would like to wish you Happy Holidays and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the CICP office 1-559-436-4987 or on my cell phone 1-559-313-2277. I am always available to assist CICP members.

Respectfully,

David A. Arebalos

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Executive Director