



THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

CICPP HOLIDAY INFORMATIONAL

CICPP MEMBERS:

The Construction Industry Crime Prevention Program of Central California would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. The holiday season is a time for cheer and goodwill, but it also presents criminals with many opportunities to ruin the holiday spirit. CICPP of Central California 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, CICPP and AGC estimates annual losses at roughly \$1 billion. Contractors, equipment dealers, insurance companies, equipment manufacturers all suffer when job sites are vandalized or equipment and materials are stolen. The phenomenon of theft and vandalism of construction sites is not new, this is a national problem that will not go away. Whether we like it or not, this is here to stay and what the 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 shut the job down temporarily. Insurance costs are bound to rise and rental companies may refuse to rent to people who do not properly guard their assets. Company reputations can be severely damaged through vandal actions or repeated thefts. CICPP Executive Director David Arebalos says failure to act in a pre-emptive way to avoid theft and vandalism is irresponsible and unnecessary. The FBI says that an estimated 90% of all equipment thefts take place between 6 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Monday, Holidays and weeknights are next.

CICPP QUICK TIPS

1. Disable and defensively park machines you leave on Site, there are a number of safe and simple ways to disable vehicles you leave on your site. You can remove tires and disconnect batteries, for example, further, parking high-target vehicles inside a ring of lesser-value vehicles makes them harder to steal.
2. Don't leave trailers loaded, if you are storing equipment or materials on trailers you leave yourself open 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 alternative.
3. Limit weekend or holiday site visits, can you stop weekend or holiday visits 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 to your jobsite, check to see if all the gates are locked? Is your fence intact through the entirety of the perimeter? These last minute checks before weekends and holidays can help you spot potential problems. Be sure to hand, check all locks, and make sure someone did not just turn a lock in place without fastening it completely.



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5. Conduct inventory, so you know exactly what is there having a complete jobsite inventory will help you in the event of a break in. This way you can provide complete serial numbers and product quantities to CICPP and authorities.
6. Spread the word about your security to employees and subs, let it slip to subs and your employees that you have taken special security precautions. Be sure to advise them of CICPP's reward program in place and make sure that you mention it on a regular basis. Never underestimate the power of buzz among your subs and employees. If they know you mean business you will stop more theft.
7. Take precaution against metal theft, increasing worldwide demand for copper and short supply 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 metal can be found in abundance and is relatively easy to steal. Once stolen, it's virtually impossible for authorities to track or recover from recyclers, making copper theft a low-risk, high-profit crime that many thieves can't resist. Members Bruno's Iron and Metal and Western Metal Company, remind everyone that Copper prices remain over \$3.20. These high prices make your jobsite 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 CICPP signage, 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 web-site at www.cicpp.org for viewing 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 CICPP by calling 1-888-572-3667, if they observe anything suspicious on your property. Remind them of the CICPP reward system who will pay up to \$1,000.00 for information resulting in the arrest, restitution or recovery of theft or vandalism of tools, 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 construction job site, the effective use of lighting can be an effective deterrent to theft and vandalism on the construction job site. It is particularly effective in deterring the casual or impulse offender. Among the points on the job site that should be highlighted by lighting are the office trailer(s), equipment storage trailer(s), material storage yard and any equipment storage areas. These areas should be illuminated to a minimum of one foot-candle at ground level ideally; 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 are also recommended for the job site. Such lighting gives the impression an intrusion has been detected and may warn neighbors of potential intruders.
11. Fencing on the job site, fencing is particularly important on the construction job site. Ideally, the entire job site should be enclosed in 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 accesses or gates through the job site 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.



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As the economy has weakened, thieves have become bolder, breaking into construction sites to make off with anything that is not nailed down. As the Executive Director of CICPP, 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.

CICPP is always happy when Thanksgiving is approaching, because this wonderful holiday affords us the 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 CICPP Board of Directors and myself, would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate in calling me at the CICPP office 1-559-436-4987 or 1-559-313-2277 (cell), I will be available 24/7 to assist CICPP members.

Sincerely,

David A. Arebalos

David A. Arebalos
Executive Director
CICPP, Central California