



# EQUIPMENT THEFT QUARTERLY

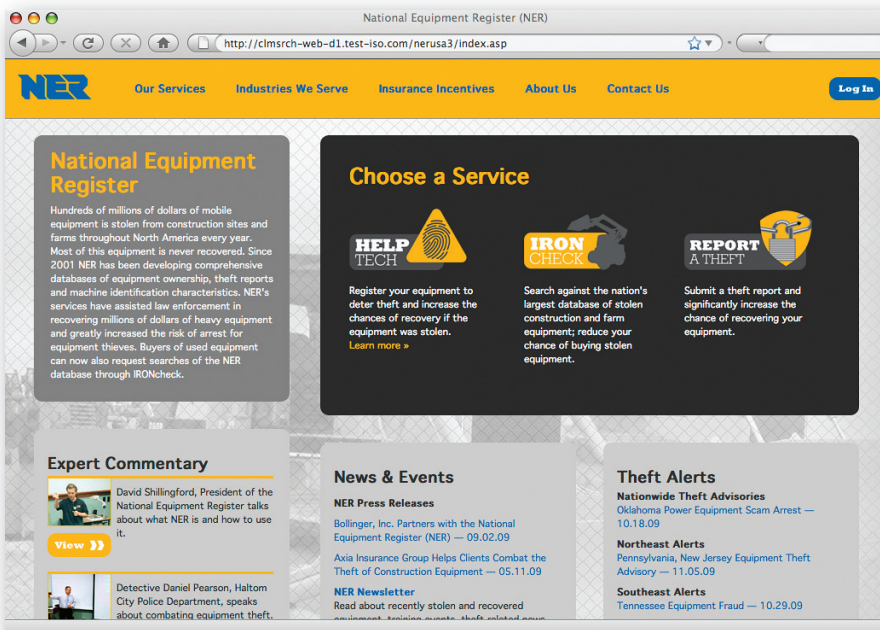
EQUIPMENT SECURITY NEWS

FOURTH-QUARTER 2009

 *Happy Holidays* from all of us at the National Equipment Register!

## In the News

### NER launches a new website



NER launched a new website in early December. The site goes beyond obvious visual changes and boasts improved functionality and navigation and frequently updated content.

With the launch of the site, NER brings IRONcheck®, its newest service, to the consumer market. Staying true to NER's mission of combating equipment theft, IRONcheck offers the most comprehensive equipment background-check mechanism available today and allows buyers of used equipment to reduce substantially the risk of acquiring stolen machines.

"We're glad to finally make IRONcheck available to the broad consumer market," says Ryan Shepherd, NER manager of operations. "It's an effective tool against buying stolen machines and a means to protect one's investment and reputation. It also empowers every buyer, dealer, and auctioneer to make the industry a safer place by making it difficult for thieves to sell stolen equipment. For those reasons, we feel that, going forward, no one should buy or sell a used machine without an IRONcheck report."

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### Peace of mind for the holidays: Steps to take to reduce the risk of equipment theft this holiday season



With the holiday season upon us, law enforcement and equipment owners across the country are bracing for the seasonal wave of equipment thefts. The steady rate of thefts this fall indicates continued criminal activity involving equipment, with thieves taking advantage of vulnerable dealerships, contractor and rental yards, farms, and construction sites.

To reduce the risk of losing your equipment this holiday season, NER recommends taking the following steps:

- Ensure that your alarms and lighting systems are fully functional. If you're getting a high number of false alarms, thieves may be testing your responsiveness. Hiring a guard over the holiday season could be money well spent, especially if shared with other local businesses.
- Test your security cameras in daylight and after dark to ensure that they're capturing license plates, faces, and other reasonable detail.
- Make certain that fences and gates are secure and provide a complete barrier to adjoining businesses or vacant land.
- Store your light or highly targeted equipment (skid steers, mowers, generators, attachments) in service bays or more secure areas of your yard.
- Park large machines and trucks in such a way as not to provide cover for thieves. Try to park vehicles so that gas tanks face the road.
- Communicate with neighboring businesses, especially those that will be open during the holidays. Alert them to the possibility of thefts, and share your contact information with their staff.
- Designate an employee to check up on your facility at different times during the holidays.

#### Should a break-in and theft occur, be prepared to respond swiftly:

- Keep an up-to-date, accurate fleet inventory ready to identify missing equipment. Better yet, register machines with NER to make serial numbers available to police 24/7.
- Report the theft to the nearest police agency as soon as you discover the crime. Be sure to provide police with the accurate PIN or serial number.
- Share the information on stolen equipment with other local equipment companies (dealers, rental yards, auctioneers, contractors) as soon as possible.
- Report your thefts to NER as soon as you can, and consult NER's specialists with any equipment identification or serial number-related questions that may arise.

## NER launches a new website

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The revamped website will remain a useful tool for NER's HELPtch® clients, who will continue to have the ability to register and manage their fleets online. Educational videos on the new site will contain expert commentary and helpful equipment tips, while NER's dynamic Theft Map will allow site users to stay on top of the latest theft trends across the country.

NER will continue to use its site to address matters related to government emissions regulations and mandatory registrations such as those implemented by the California Air

Resources Board (CARB). As always, NER remains firmly committed to growing and managing the most accurate and up-to-date equipment theft database in the nation, which is why the new website makes reporting thefts easier than ever.

We invite all our clients, allies, and friends to visit the new [www.NERUSA.com](http://www.NERUSA.com). We're confident you'll find it a helpful and easy-to-use resource.

## Recovery spotlight

### Law enforcement agencies successfully collaborate in North Carolina and South Carolina: 15 recoveries worth \$700K is only the beginning

The investigation, which resulted in the recovery of almost \$700,000 of stolen construction and farm equipment and more than \$150,000 of vehicles and boats, began with a phone call from the theft victim, who saw his Kubota M9000 tractor for sale at an otherwise reputable equipment auction in Georgia. Officers of the Jeff Davis County Sheriff's Office secured the auction lot and identified the seller. They quickly determined that, out of 16 machines that the seller listed for sale, three were allegedly stolen from Spartanburg County in South Carolina and Polk County in North Carolina. Thus, law enforcement agencies of both counties became involved in the investigation.

Police discovered the seller was a regular customer at the auction and was believed to have sold more than 30 pieces of equipment since the summer. The subsequent multiagency effort led officers to an organized theft ring oper-

ating in the Carolinas that frequently conducted "thefts to order." A broad search for stolen machines continued for days led by Investigator M.B. Letterman of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office and supported by Detective J. McFalls, Polk County Sheriff's Office; Detective R. Burgess, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office; Detective J. Shelton, Forest City Police Department; Investigator J.B. Whitmire, Greenville County Sheriff's Office; and Investigator Hutchens, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Police officers from the Laurens County and York County Sheriff's Offices, Rutherfordton Police Department, and Rutherford County Sheriff's Office and agents of the U.S. Federal Probation Office also took part in unraveling the theft operation.



To date, the investigation has recovered 15 machines of recent model years, including Kubota M9000, M4900, and L3130 tractors; a Ford 4630 tractor; New Holland TB100 and 7610 tractors; a New Holland L-185 skid steer loader; a John Deere 6415 tractor; two John Deere 5410 tractors; a John Deere backhoe loader; and a Caterpillar 304 mini-excavator. Law enforcement has detained six suspects. The continuing investigation is likely to recover more stolen units and return them to their legal owners in coming weeks.



## Summits and Meetings

### A series of agency meetings in Oklahoma

NER continues to expand its strategic relationships with the nation's insurance agencies by educating and supporting insurance professionals in construction and farm equipment matters. Recently, NER's Stacy Kaufman visited several insurance agencies in Oklahoma and hosted joint meetings with CNA's risk control specialist Mark Knutson. The meetings focused on the problem of heavy-equipment theft in Oklahoma (ranked sixth in the nation by volume of equipment thefts, according to NER's Annual Theft Report) and introduced the CNA insurance incentive program. The meetings proved very useful, and NER is planning to host more meetings at various insurance agencies across the country.



*Pictured: Mark Knutson of CNA, Delene Lovitt of Fennell & Associates, and NER's Stacy Kaufman*

## Heavy-Equipment Theft Summits Update

FBI-LEEDA, NICB, and NER presented the latest Heavy-Equipment Theft Summit on September 22 in Charlotte, N.C. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department hosted the event, and law enforcement officers, equipment owners and dealers, rental fleet managers, and insurers from North Carolina, South Carolina, and neighboring states attended.

Over the past several years, the summits have proven hugely successful. They will continue throughout 2010, with eight locations already selected. NER will announce details in January.

Most summits in 2010 will qualify for continuing education (CE) credits. Please confirm CE credits status with NER before registering. For more information or to register for the upcoming summits, please call 1-866-663-7872.



### A quick reminder

The latest NER-NICB Annual Theft Report, containing the most recent theft statistics and analytics, is now available. To request your copy, please send e-mail to [info@nerusa.com](mailto:info@nerusa.com).



## Recent Recoveries

Below are some of the machines recently identified and recovered by law enforcement with the help of NICB agents and information support from NER:

Make/Model	Type	State	Agency
Bobcat 773-T	Tracked skid steer	CA	Riverside County Auto Theft
New Holland LS-170	Skid steer loader	TN	Tennessee Highway Patrol
CAT 420-E	Backhoe loader	TX	Texas DPS
Case 1840	Skid steer loader	OK	Oklahoma City Police Department
John Deere 210-LE	Loader	CA	Riverside County Auto Theft
CAT D-3-C	Dozer	MS	Mississippi Highway Patrol
Ingersoll-Rand P-185	Air compressor	IL	Tri-County Auto Theft Unit
CAT 302.5	Mini-excavator	OK	Jenks Police Department
John Deere 5055	Tractor	LA	Louisiana State Police

Do you have information on a stolen machine? Call 1-866-663-7872.

*NER wishes you a happy and healthy New Year!*

## Contact NER

### Equipment owners:

1-866-346-3746 x212  
skaufman@nerusa.com

### Insurance professionals:

1-866-346-3746 x205  
msthil@nerusa.com

### Law enforcement:

1-866-346-3746 Option 1  
info@nerusa.com



**HELPTech®:**

[www.StopEquipmentTheft.com](http://www.StopEquipmentTheft.com)



**IRONcheck®:**

[www.IRONcheck.com](http://www.IRONcheck.com)

### Report a theft:

[www.nerusa.com](http://www.nerusa.com)  
or fax to 201-469-2027

### Sign up for theft alerts:

[dmoosman@nerusa.com](mailto:dmoosman@nerusa.com)

### All other inquiries:

#### National Equipment Register

545 Washington Blvd., 22-19  
Jersey City, NJ 07310-1686  
Phone: 1-866-6-NER-USA  
Fax: 201-469-2027  
E-mail: [info@nerusa.com](mailto:info@nerusa.com)  
Web: [www.nerusa.com](http://www.nerusa.com)



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