

in the  
**news**

## NER and NICB release 2013 Heavy Equipment Theft Report

The National Equipment Register and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) have released their national report on 2013 heavy-equipment theft. This year's report continues to focus on what types of equipment are most likely to be stolen and recovered and where in the country the thefts and recoveries occur. The report's objective is to help provide equipment owners, insurance companies, and law enforcement personnel with information that can be used to help allocate investigative resources and influence theft prevention efforts.

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## Berkley Fire & Marine Underwriters Offer Insured's Equipment Protection Program in Alliance with NER

Berkley Fire & Marine Underwriters (a W.R. Berkley Company) has entered into an alliance with the National Equipment Register which provides services to help prevent equipment theft and reduce the recovery time and costs associated with stolen equipment.

IRONwatch<sup>®</sup>, offered exclusively by National Equipment Register, is a new GPS tracking and recovery device designed for mobile heavy equipment that delivers quick and accurate location and recovery information for misplaced or stolen equipment to equipment owners and law enforcement. BFM insured's can purchase the IRONwatch devices at a discount as part of this alliance. BFM has also agreed to pay the activation fee for IRONwatch in the event of a theft.

National Equipment Register also offers HELPtech<sup>®</sup>, a national registration system for construction and agricultural equipment. Access to NER's database allows law enforcement to assist with recovery efforts for stolen equipment. In addition, visible identification on registered equipment serves as a theft deterrent.

"Equipment theft is a major concern for both our clients and the insurance industry," said John Geary, Berkley Fire & Marine President. "NER has helped equipment owners deter theft and recover millions of dollars of stolen equipment nationwide. We are proud to offer this service to our clients and participate in the efforts to combat equipment theft."



### About Berkley Fire & Marine Underwriters

Berkley Fire & Marine

Underwriters was launched in 2013 and is a W.R. Berkley Company offering preferred inland marine and commercial property insurance products and services. They serve independent insurance agents, brokers, and wholesalers throughout the United States. Berkley Fire & Marine Underwriters writes on behalf of W.R. Berkley Corporation member insurance companies.

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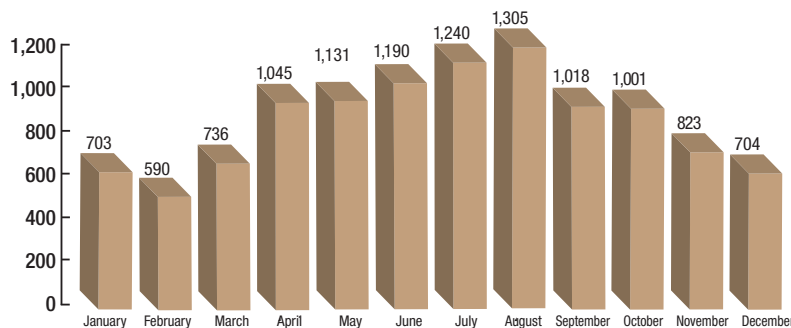


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The report draws on data from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the NCIB, and the NER to provide a comprehensive analysis of heavy-equipment theft during the year. In 2013, the NCIC received 11,486 theft reports. In descending order, the five states with the most incidents of heavy-equipment thefts were Texas, North Carolina, Florida, California, and South Carolina. Together, those five states account for 41 percent of total equipment theft. Rounding out the top ten were Georgia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Alabama and Arkansas. The top ten accounted for 62 percent of all thefts. In 2013, 21 percent of heavy equipment stolen was recovered.

“While the overall number of stolen pieces of equipment has remained relatively constant the last couple of years, the total number of annual recoveries has steadily increased,” said Ryan Shepherd, NER general manager. “It’s encouraging to see that the focus on law enforcement training and improved theft reporting and record keeping is making a positive impact.”

**2013 Heavy Equipment Theft by Month**



The 2013 Heavy Equipment Theft Report can be downloaded by visiting [www.ner.net/annual-theft-report.html](http://www.ner.net/annual-theft-report.html).



### About the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)

Headquartered in Des Plaines, Ill., the NICB is the nation’s leading not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to preventing, detecting, and defeating insurance fraud and vehicle theft through data analytics, investigations, training, legislative advocacy, and public awareness.

The NICB is supported by more than 1,100 property and casualty insurance companies and self-insured organizations. To learn more visit [www.nicb.org](http://www.nicb.org).



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### NER is #Social

The National Equipment register has always served as a top source for equipment theft alerts and warnings. In this ever changing, all-encompassing digital world, NER strives to provide the most up to date and timely theft prevention news right at your fingertips via social media.

Join the conversation today and follow NER Theft Alerts on Twitter (@ner\_theft\_alert). You will gain access to alerts, recoveries, prevention techniques, safety methods, events, and general industry knowledge. Be on the look-out for more of NER’s social media platform announcements as they become available.





## The winter season is “snow joke” for equipment thieves

Skid steers, compact tractors, and loaders; just a few of the snow removal equipment that will be a top theft priority to criminals this winter. As the season quickly advances, it is important to remember that thieves don't take snow days. Although theft rates are highest during the warmer months, there still exists a substantial opportunity for crime activity throughout December to February, leaving equipment vulnerable, without proper preventative measures and general awareness of the threat.

During the winter months heavy equipment is generally staged in anticipation of snow. Contractors, landscapers, property managers, and even government agencies set up machines strategically at locations where they want to get a jump start on accumulation, which avoids the issue of transporting the machinery once the snow begins to fall. While it is convenient to have the machines ready on site it can also be the downfall. These machines sit, often unprotected and unobserved, for months on end, most times in an open parking lot.

Most of the time, the business owners or tenants at the property have no connection to the machine owners, and would not have any idea or recognition if an unauthorized person loads up and removes a machine. So, on top of the fact that the machines are left out in the open, they

also lack the presence of someone who cares about their wellbeing to keep an eye out. In many instances, equipment owners realize after it is too late, when the crew arrives to use the machinery and it is nowhere in sight.

### What do thieves take?

- Skid steers are the number one priority—their size and usability makes them a top commodity
- Compact Tractors
- Utility vehicles/Utility carts
- Loaders

### What types of facilities are machines stolen from?

- Shopping malls/ strip malls
- Offices complexes
- Houses of Worship
- Park and Ride facilities
- Anywhere there is a big parking lot and the potential for snow accumulation

If your equipment is going to be unattended longer than usual you can take some steps to better secure them and decrease the opportunity for theft this winter.

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## The Winter Season *continued from previous page*

### For Equipment Owners

- Do not leave machines in the open— work with property managers to determine an area on the site where machines can be secured or parked where video surveillance exists.
- Disable machines that must be left in the open—remove relays, battery cables, etc. to make operating a machine more difficult for a thief.
- Use a GPS monitoring system, such as NER's own IRONwatch® devices.
- Put signage on machines warning that they are under video surveillance and monitored by GPS systems.
- Reach out to local businesses—be sure property managers and businesses at the location know how to reach you if they see something suspicious.
- Contact local Police—let the patrol officers know you have machines left in the open and be sure they have your emergency contact information.
- Protect attachments—park machines with plows and snow blowers against a curb, wall or bollard to make removal more difficult. Park machines blade to blade.
- Monitor equipment—check up on machines regularly to be sure they are accounted for. Watch for vandalism as it could be a sign that your machines are being targeted.
- Be prepared—make sure your NER registration is up to date and all machines are recorded accurately.

- Report thefts immediately—Make a police report before beginning your own search for a missing machine. Report thefts to NER as soon as practical – call 866-663-7872 or see [www.ner.net](http://www.ner.net).

The more alert you are, and the more preventative actions you take, will leave you less susceptible and help to prevent theft this winter season.

If you or your crews observe equipment that seems out of place or suspicious, contact NER for assistance (866-663-7872) or if you suffered a theft over the past season, NER accepts reports on past thefts as well, learn more at [www.ner.net/report-a-theft.html](http://www.ner.net/report-a-theft.html).



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### Tips for Law Enforcement During the Winter Season

- Talk to Patrol and Dispatch personnel to be sure they are aware of the heightened equipment theft threat and vulnerability of staged machines.
- Be sure Patrol and Dispatch understand that they may contact NICB (800-447-6282) for access to NER's machine ownership registration data.
- NCIC will not hit on an unreported theft. Call NICB to identify equipment owners through NER's registration, and to confirm a machine's location and authorized operators.
- NER's registration includes machine owner fleet emergency contact information, including most major rental fleets.



## Stay Tuned for the 2015 AIS/AER Award Winner Announcement

Since 2004, NER has partnered with the American Rental Association Insurance Services to create the AIS/AER award, which recognizes a law enforcement officer who has exhibited exemplary service in the recovery of rental equipment or whose actions have deterred theft altogether. This year's nominations concluded November 7th and the winner will soon be revealed.

Past honorees have included police officers from California, Illinois, Tennessee, New Mexico, Texas, and Georgia. While the states of those honored have changed over the years, one thing remains the same: the award is presented during a special ceremony at the annual ARA Rental Show. This year the Rental Show will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, February 22nd – February 25th.

If you missed the chance to vote this year, make sure you are on NER's mailing list and following us on Twitter (@ner\_theft\_alert) to receive updates and newsworthy information. To be added to the mailing list, you can access the "Contact Us" page on the NER website ([www.ner.net](http://www.ner.net)).

## Contact NER



@ner\_theft\_alert

### Equipment owners:

1-866-346-3746, option 2  
info@ner.net

### Insurance professionals:

1-866-346-3746,  
option 3, then option 6  
msthill@ner.net

### Law enforcement:

1-866-346-3746, option 1  
info@ner.net



Report a theft: [www.ner.net](http://www.ner.net)  
or fax to 201-469-2027

Sign up for theft alerts:  
drossman@ner.net

### All other inquires:

National Equipment Register  
545 Washington Blvd., 22-19  
Jersey City, NJ 07310-1686  
Phone: 1-866-663-7872  
Fax: 201-469-2027  
E-mail: [info@ner.net](mailto:info@ner.net)  
Web: [www.ner.net](http://www.ner.net)