



## Equipment Theft Alert

Rental Fraud Alert – Michigan fraud ring still active 12/12/2018

### **UPDATE**

On December 11, 2018, a subject contacted an equipment rental facility in southwestern Michigan inquiring about the rental of a Bobcat brand skid steer and/or compact tracked loader. In the course of the call, it was determined the caller may be associated with the criminal group responsible for the frauds referred to in the below NER alert from October.

This indicates that this criminal group may still be active in the area. NER strongly recommends that equipment businesses review the below information, and take steps to prevent falling victim to these frauds.

Please report to NER any suspicious rental activity so that this information may be conveyed to investigators.

Law Enforcement investigating frauds may contact NER to be connected with investigators working on the below referenced crimes.

Throughout the summer, equipment rental businesses in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky have been targeted in a rental scam where a subject calls to reserve equipment for an employee who picks up the equipment, sometimes in a rented U-Haul truck. The caller may ask that the rental company try multiple credit cards to secure the deposit. Rented equipment is not returned and the caller cannot be located.

Despite arrests of subjects involved in these thefts in Ohio and Michigan, rental businesses in Ohio and Kentucky report receiving requests for rental by subjects using the same tactics, as recently as last the first week of October:

- Phone order by client from out of state for earth moving equipment and trailer.
- Caller may call several times with repeated questions about deposit policy and equipment availability.
- Recent deposits were accepted through Card Connect with the card holder name matching information provided by the caller This may indicate the cards are stolen but the victim is not yet aware of the theft and has not reported the card stolen.



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- Callers claim to be from North Dakota but their phone number had a Michigan area code, using the business name DeLeon or Dion Construction.
- Targeted equipment are Compact Tracked Loaders, Mini Excavators and recently large stump grinders. The perpetrators have knowledge of the equipment they're requesting and may ask for specific makes and models.

This alert is to raise awareness among the rental industry and Law Enforcement that this rental scam continues to be perpetrated even though some subjects involved have been arrested. NER strongly encourages rental operators to be vigilant and adhere to rental requirement policies, especially when dealing with out of state clients.

NER asks that any equipment theft, whether by fraud or outright taking, be reported to NER as soon as practical. NER accepts reports from owners, insurers and Law Enforcement. Equipment may be reported whether its registered with NER or not.

Submit theft reports online at [www.ner.net](http://www.ner.net) and click on the "[Report A Theft](#)" link, or email NER at [info@ner.net](mailto:info@ner.net)

The image at right was taken of a machine stolen in this scam, and a subject offering the machine for sale in Detroit. Please take steps to be sure your machine does not end up like this.

**Law Enforcement** - For access to NER's equipment ownership registration and theft records, and for machine identification assistance, call NICB: **800-447-6282**. For online access, click "[Log in](#)" at [www.ner.net](http://www.ner.net)

**Industry** – Report suspicious activity involving equipment – **Dial 911**





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Register to receive NER's email alerts at: [www.ner.net/theft-alerts.html](http://www.ner.net/theft-alerts.html)

**National Equipment Register**

545 Washington Blvd Jersey City, NJ 07310

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