

## IN THE NEWS

### NER and NICB release 2009 Equipment Theft Report

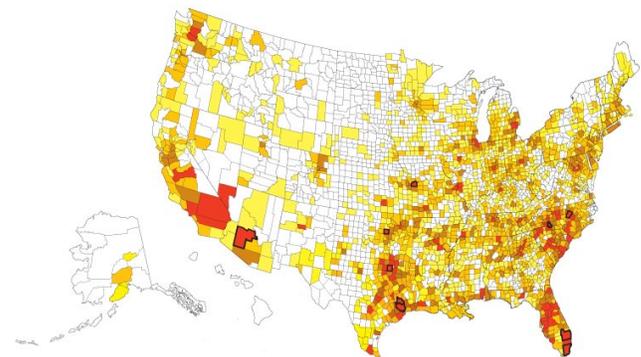


NER and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) recently released their second joint report on national heavy-equipment theft. The 2009 report's major focus is on the types of equipment that are most likely to be stolen or recovered and the locations across the United States where these events occur. The latest edition of the report has new statistics and analyses and

first-of-their-kind maps that illustrate U.S. equipment theft and recovery rates at the county level.

The report drew upon data from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), NICB, and NER to produce a comprehensive analysis of heavy-equipment theft. In 2009, the NCIC received 13,452 theft reports. The report also highlights recovery statistics: in 2009 approximately 18 percent of stolen heavy equipment was recovered.

"While the number of thefts reported to NCIC declined only slightly from 2008 to 2009, it is a positive note," said Joe Wehrle, NICB president and CEO. "The awareness this annual report has brought to the issue of equipment



**2009 U.S. Equipment Theft by County**

theft, combined with better reporting and increased attention from law enforcement, may be stemming the tide of thefts."

"We are encouraged by a leveling-off of theft rates. And we see great potential to decrease theft further as more information is made available to law enforcement through the NER-NICB alliance," added David Shillingford, president of NER. "As more used-equipment buyers check equipment through IRONcheck® prior to purchase, the chances of buying stolen equipment are reduced."

To obtain your copy of the NER-NICB 2009 Equipment Theft Report, please call NER at 1-866-663-7872 or send an e-mail request to [info@NERusa.com](mailto:info@NERusa.com).

### Northeast Equipment Dealers Association Offers NER's IRONcheck Service to Members



In early June, the Northeast Equipment Dealers Association, Inc. (NEDA) established an alliance with NER to provide NEDA members with access to NER's IRONcheck®

equipment history reports at a reduced price. Through this joint endeavor, NEDA members can securely and confidentially request a search on any piece of used off-road or farm equipment prior to purchase.

Every year, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of construction and farm equipment is stolen in the United States. Most of these machines are ultimately sold in the secondary market, creating a risk of acquiring a stolen machine. NER developed IRONcheck to give equipment professionals an effective tool to verify whether the machine has been reported as stolen. The IRONcheck service checks the machine's identification information to confirm its accuracy and provides a report that includes

available vehicle history and finance records, including Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) details.

Dave Close of NEDA, is responsible for reporting stolen equipment for NEDA members in the Northeast. He stated, "I'm looking forward to our alliance with NER, and I'm confident that it will help protect our members, deter theft rings in the Northeast, and improve chances of recovering stolen equipment."

Mikhail Levintas, IRONcheck's director of business development, said, "We are excited about our working relationship with NEDA. It will not only offer all NEDA members a quick and easy way to check the history of any used machine, but it will also help strengthen the fight against equipment theft in northeastern United States."

NEDA operates in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. To find out more about this program and other NEDA membership benefits, please call 1-800-932-0607 or send an email request to [closed@ne-equip.com](mailto:closed@ne-equip.com).

## Swift investigation leads to \$1.5 million recovery in Georgia



This spring, law enforcement officers in Georgia completed a swift investigation that led to a recovery of numerous units of equipment worth \$1.5 million. This multi-agency effort was spearheaded by the officers of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office in Georgia. NER asked Sgt. Keith Whiteside of Fayette County Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Division

to share some details of this remarkable investigation.

**Q: The recovery and identification appear to be a fairly major operation. Who were the key people who participated in this recovery?**

A: The incident started with a Lo Jack hit from the Air Wing (Hawk I). As the Air Unit honed in on the single Caterpillar D8 dozer, several units from the Fayette County Sheriff's Office converged on the location in Brooks. At that time four persons were taken into custody. For the next week, Detectives David Gunter, Aaron Fenimore, Sgt. Keith Whiteside, NICB Agent David Renaud, Bill Burris of Lo Jack, and Dan Peter of Yancey Brothers worked to identify a large quantity of equipment. With the assistance of our CSI unit, Investigator Marry Harris worked with various other departments including Spalding County Sheriff's Office, Henry County Police Department, and Peachtree City Police Department to locate and identify parts of equipment that had been stolen out of their respective jurisdictions. The removal of this equipment was coordinated and conducted by Gary and Randy Walker of Fayette Wrecker. It took two weeks to safely remove, transport, and unload all the various equipment.

**Q: It appears that the suspects ran a chop-shop operation, and most recovered machines were in**

**various stages of being disassembled. How many units did you discover there in total?**

A: There were a total of 14 different Caterpillar pieces of equipment recovered. This equipment varied from a D-8-N dozer to a 325 excavator. However, all machines were in various stages of being cannibalized for parts. Some of the machines had been stripped to the frame, while others were missing key parts such as the engine, transmission, and swing drives.

**Q: Were all the recovered machines CATs, or were there other manufacturers?**

A: The majority of all identified units were Caterpillar. However, there were also machines identified as Takeuchi and Bobcat. We also located several stolen Peterbilt trucks and low boy trailers, as well as several all-terrain vehicles.

**Q: Were most recovered machines stolen from Georgia-based owners?**

A: All of the machines except one (identified as stolen out of Birmingham, Alabama) were taken from inside Georgia. The theft ranged as far north as Fannin County, west to Villa Rica, east to Walton County, and as far south as Peach County.

**Q: What is going to happen to the various recovered equipment parts?**

A: The majority of parts identified will be returned to respective insurance companies in an attempt to recuperate monetary loss. The remaining unidentifiable parts will be disposed of at the county auction.

**Q: Is this investigation still ongoing?**

A: The majority of the criminal organization has been identified and charged accordingly. However, detectives are continuing to remain diligent in an effort to ensure all those responsible are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

## Builders Mutual Forms Strategic Alliance with NER

**Builders Mutual**<sup>®</sup>  
INSURANCE COMPANY

*Where Builders Come First*<sup>®</sup>

Builders Mutual Insurance Company (BMIC), one of the Southeast's leading writers of commercial insurance for the residential and commercial construction industries, has entered into a strategic alliance with NER to provide a valuable new service to eligible policyholders. Through this joint endeavor, NER will add eligible BMIC policyhold-

ers' heavy-equipment information (including descriptions and serial numbers) to its secure and confidential online registration. The information stored in NER's database is used by law enforcement officials to track down stolen equipment. NER also provides policyholders with warning decals which can be displayed on registered equipment as a theft deterrent.

"We believe this working relationship with NER will be

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mutually beneficial to our policyholders and company. It provides a risk management resource for customers who want to take a proactive approach toward preventing job site equipment theft and provides security if a theft does occur,” stated Ron Adams, Director of Risk Management at Builders Mutual. Risk management is an integral part of the culture at Builders Mutual. The alliance with NER will help to deter theft, increase productivity, and furnish

BMIC’s policyholders with another valuable risk-management tool.

*Headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, Builders Mutual operates in North Carolina, District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. To find out more, please visit [www.buildersmutual.com](http://www.buildersmutual.com).*

## Eye on compliance: Emissions regulations update

As many of you know, California’s In-Use Off-Road equipment registration program has been delayed. Equipment owners are still required to report and label their machines; it is only the emissions compliance aspect of the program that has been placed on hold. NER has been following the matter closely, and we’re helping our clients stay up-to-date with regulations by assisting with Diesel Off-Road Online Reporting System (DOORS) registration and providing equipment identification number (EIN) labels.

NER is continuously monitoring the development of new off-road regulations. For example, there has been a notable rise in regulations on municipal fleets, port equipment, and idling. In addition, many new projects

are requiring fleets meet certain environmental standards before being granted a contract. While current off-road regulations may not directly affect every industry player, companies that grow complacent today with regard to diesel regulation might find themselves left behind if regulations are adopted in the states in which they operate.

*NER helps equipment owners dealers, and regulatory agencies make sense of the changing regulatory climate. To learn more about how NER can help with compliance issues please send e-mail to Adam Gurzynski ([agurzynski@nerusa.com](mailto:agurzynski@nerusa.com)) or call him at (201)469-2023*



## FBI-LEEDA Heavy-Equipment Summits

NER, NICB, and FBI-LEEDA host free one-day regional summits to increase awareness of the equipment theft problem and to provide specially-tailored educational sessions and networking for equipment owners, law enforcement, insurers, lenders, auctioneers, and dealers.

The following locations will host the FBI-LEEDA Heavy-Equipment Theft Summits in 2010:

- September 21 – Columbus, OH
- October – Philadelphia, PA
- November 17 – Oklahoma City, OK

For more information, or to register, contact NER at [info@nerusa.com](mailto:info@nerusa.com) or 1-866-663-7872.



## 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 S-150	Skid steer loader	LA	East Baton Rouge County Sheriff
Caterpillar GC-30	Forklift	MA	Governor's Auto Theft Strike Force
John Deere 310-SG	Backhoe loader	NM	Federal Bureau of Investigations
Kobelco SK-210-LC	Excavator	VA	Henrico State Police Department
Case 580-K	Backhoe loader	IL	Tri County Auto Theft Unit
New Holland LX-885	Skid steer loader	MD	Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Department
Ford 5900	Tractor	CA	Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Caterpillar 420-E-IT	Backhoe loader	FL	Jacksonville Sheriff's Department
John Deere 450-J	Dozer	NY	Chenango County Sheriff's Department

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

## CONTACT NER

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1-866-346-3746 x212  
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**Insurance professionals:**  
1-866-346-3746 x205  
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**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:**  
[dmossmann@nerusa.com](mailto:dmossmann@nerusa.com)

**All other inquiries:**  
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