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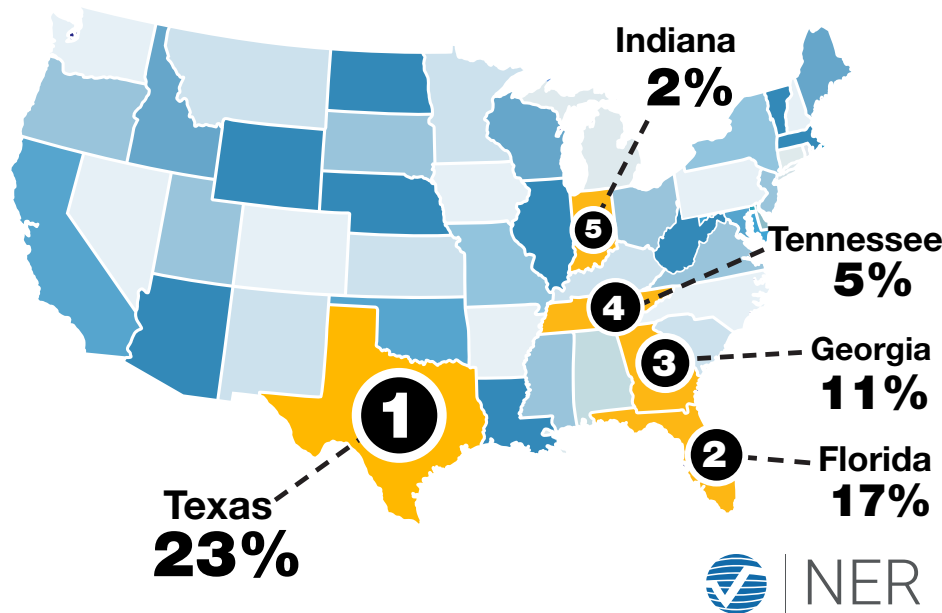
Thanksgiving Heavy Equipment Theft Trends

Over the last five years, there has been a rise in theft incidents reported to the NER® during the Thanksgiving holiday. Here is a snapshot of the events, including theft by state, equipment type, location type, theft type, and loss value from the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to the Monday after.

169

Equipment Theft Incidents Reported

Top 5 Targeted States



Total Loss Value \$4,327,234

Top Targeted Equipment Type



1. Skid Steer



2. Utility Cart/Vehicle



3. Tractor (Wheeled)

Top Targeted Location Type



1. Worksite



2. Dealership



3. Storage

Top 5 Brands Stolen



JOHN DEERE

#1
(21%)



#2
(20%)



Bobcat®

#3
(7.6%)



#4
(6.5%)



WACKER NEUSON

#5
(3.5%)



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Thanksgiving Security Tips and Best Practices

NER® wishes all our clients and Law Enforcement partners a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

We also wish everyone a crime free holiday. The reality is that thieves undoubtedly will be active over the holiday, as recent reports to NER indicate that equipment theft continues in many areas despite the pandemic.

Equipment theft rates generally mirror the overall economy; in this new environment, theft patterns prove to be difficult to predict and all areas should consider equipment theft to be a viable threat over the holiday.

The infographic shows that theft of equipment from job sites and dealerships over the holiday is always an issue, and so far in 2020 that continues to be the case. Contractors and dealers in all areas should be aware of the heightened threat of thefts especially of Compact Tracked Loaders, Skid Steers and Mini Loaders like the Toro Dingo.

Equipment rental fraud is still a major issue in 2020 with little signs of slowing this winter. Rental operators need to be vigilant as indicated by recent frauds in [North Carolina](#) and [Texas](#).

Try to do something proactive to prevent equipment crimes from occurring. Small steps and minor attention to details may be all it takes to deter an opportunistic thief that is targeting your area. Below are a few fundamentals for both law enforcement and equipment owners.

If you are the victim of a theft or receive a theft report, please report it to [NER online](#), or email NER at info@ner.net with as little as the machine make, model and serial number plus the date and location of theft, and we'll enter it for you. Want an NER alert on the theft? Let us know when we follow up.

Equipment Crime Warning Signs

NER asks both Law Enforcement and the Industry to be watchful of activity that seems out of place:

- Trucks parked at rental yards and dealerships that do not belong to the company- especially box vans, U-hauls and enclosed race-car hauler type trailers.
- Vehicles parked in vacant lots and parking lots adjoining closed industry businesses, especially with occupants loitering in the area.
- Gates left open at industry facilities when it's clear the facility is shut down.
- Late night or early morning activity inside a yard, construction site, farm or store throughout the holiday.
- Overloaded trucks and improperly secured equipment transported throughout the holiday.

Law Enforcement personnel are encouraged to verify ownership or rental status on any equipment in-transit as it may be an undiscovered theft. Contact NICB 24 hours a day for access to NER's equipment ownership registration data and fleet records 800-447-6282.

Industry personnel are encouraged to contact local Law Enforcement (911) about any suspicious activity; being in the industry you know when something does not seem right - *don't let it go*.

National Equipment Register®

For more information about **NER®**
Visit our website at www.ner.net or call
1-866-663-7872



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Thanksgiving Security Tips and Best Practices

Be Proactive - A few ideas for both the Industry and Law Enforcement.

Industry

- Ensure alarms and lighting are all operating properly.
- If you are getting a high number of false alarms, thieves may be testing your responsiveness; watch for vehicles “casing” your property. Contact local Police.
- Test cameras in daylight and after dark- are you getting usable images of license plates, faces, and vehicles?
- Make sure fences and gates provide a complete barrier to adjoining businesses and vacant land. Don’t assume they are intact. Walk your fence line to be sure nothing has been tampered with.
- Conduct a security survey of the yard and buildings. Walk around the property to see if there are vulnerable points of access or cover.
- Move light or highly targeted equipment into service bays or more secure areas of the yard.
- Be sure where machines and trucks are parked does not provide cover to thieves.
- Communicate with neighboring businesses, especially those which will be open during the holiday; raise their awareness so that thefts in progress are recognized. Be sure their staff have your emergency contact information.
- Designate someone to check up on the facility at different times during the holiday. Random activity at your location could spoil a thief’s planning.
- Don’t leave ANYTHING on a trailer. Secure any trailers, whether loaded or not, so that thieves cannot use them to steal your equipment.

Law Enforcement

- Ensure that patrol and dispatch personnel are aware of the heightened equipment theft threat, have a fundamental understanding of how to spot an equipment theft, and how to contact NICB for assistance at 800-447-6282.
- NICB can provide NER’s equipment ownership registration information on machines, including most rental equipment.
- NER maintains emergency contact information for owners, fleets and rental companies whose equipment is registered with NER.
- NCIC cannot confirm a machine is NOT STOLEN. Contact NICB for NER ownership registration on any suspicious machine that come back negative for theft and verify its status with the owner.
- Law Enforcement may access NER’s owner registration data online-register for free by clicking “Register” at <https://application.ner.net/NER.WEB/login>.

Review your fleet inventory on NER:

- Update new equipment.
- Physically verify serial numbers/PINs with what is on the machine ID plate was accurately recorded in your records.
- Update your NER fleet registration and be sure your emergency contact details are accurate on your NER registration.
- If you have difficulty logging in, call an NER analyst 866-663-7872, or email info@ner.net.