



NER

# Winter Holiday Heavy Equipment Trends

Over the last five years, there has been a rise in theft incidents reported to the NER® database during the winter holiday season. Here is a snapshot of the events, including theft by state, equipment type, location type, and loss value from December 23 through January 2.

# 290

Equipment Theft Incidents Reported

## Top Targeted Location Type



1. Dealership

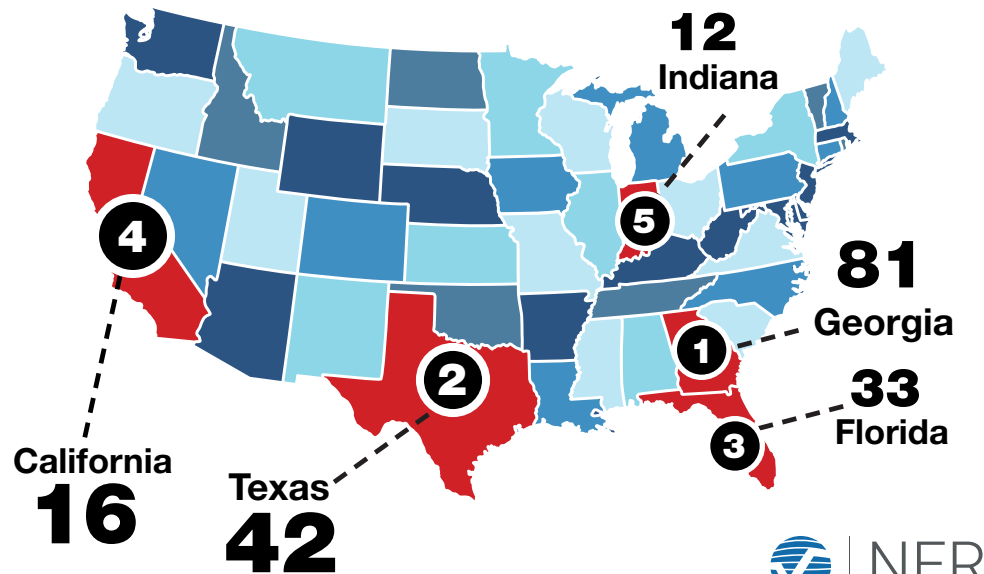


2. Worksite



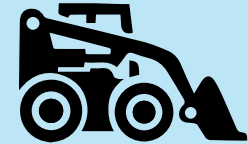
3. Storage

## Top 5 Targeted States



Total Loss Value \$5,651,770

## Top Targeted Equipment Type



1. Skid Steer



2. Utility Cart/Vehicle



3. Tractor (Wheeled)

## Top 5 Brands Stolen



JOHN DEERE

#1  
(17%)

Kubota

#2  
(13%)

STIHL®

#3  
(12%)



Bobcat®

#4  
(7%)

CAT®

#5  
(6%)



# NER

## Winter Holiday Security Tips and Best Practices

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

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 historically, theft of equipment from job sites and dealerships over the holiday was the concern. Thus far in 2020, most machines were stolen while being transported or from storage locations. Equipment owners in all areas should be aware of this theft trend shift. Do not leave machines on trailers, even in secure yards.

With winter weather, equipment staged for snow removal will be increasingly targeted and need special consideration. The [NER Snow Equipment Advisory](#) has specific tips for law enforcement and equipment owners.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ner.net) or call  
**1-866-663-7872**



# NER

## Winter Holiday 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](mailto:info@ner.net).