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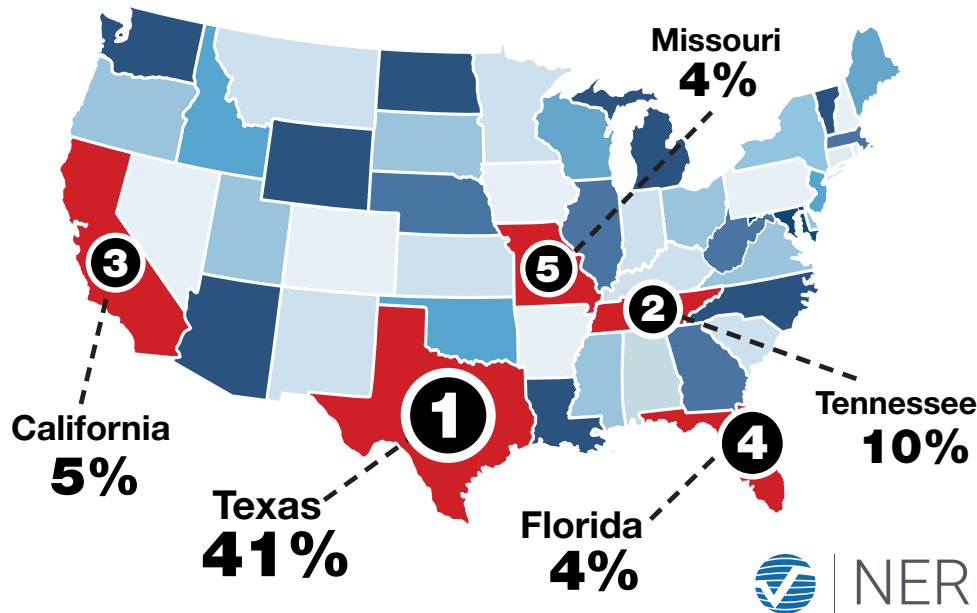
July 4th Heavy Equipment Theft Trends 2021

Over the last five years, there has been a rise in theft incidents reported to the NER® during the July 4th holiday. Here is a snapshot of the events, including theft by state, equipment type, location type, theft type, and loss value from July 1 through July 7.

219

Equipment Theft Incidents Reported

Top 5 Targeted States



Total Loss Value \$3,061,238

Top Targeted Equipment Type



1. Mower



2. Skid Steer



3. Utility Vehicles

Top Targeted Location Type



1. Dealership



2. Worksite



3. Storage

Top 5 Brands Stolen



#1 (20%)



#2 (12%)



#3 (9%)



#4 (5%)



#5 (4%)



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July 4th Security Tips and Best Practices

NER® wishes all our clients and Law Enforcement partners a happy and safe July 4th holiday. We also encourage everyone to take steps to make it a crime free holiday.

Equipment theft rates generally mirror the overall economy. With the US population returning to a degree of normalcy, the demand for equipment is also returning to something pre-pandemic levels. Like other goods, there is a scarcity of some types of equipment, further fueling demand. Elevated equipment demand will result in elevated equipment crime. All areas should consider equipment theft to be a threat before and over the holiday.

The infographic shows that job site and dealer yard burglaries over the holiday are always an issue. So far in 2021 that continues to be the case. Contractors, equipment rental businesses and equipment dealers in all areas should be aware of the heightened threat of thefts especially of Commercial Mowers, Utility Vehicles, Skid Steers/CTL's and Mini-Loaders (example: Toro Dingo). Recent reports also included thefts of Dozers, Medium Excavators and even a Grader from job sites in south-east and south-central states. Any equipment is a potential target.

Equipment rental fraud and conversion continue to plague the industry since a surge in 2018, and 2021 reports indicate this trend is not stopping. Numerous recent reports of unauthorized use of commercial accounts and online rental fraud confirm that the fraudsters will be active again throughout the summer.

Everyone should continue to be proactive in order to prevent equipment crimes from occurring. Small steps and attention to details may be all it takes to deter an opportunistic thief. Below are a few fundamentals for both law enforcement and equipment owners.

Please report any theft or fraud to [NER online](#), or email NER at info@ner.net with as little as the machine make, model and serial number and 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 job sites, 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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July 4th Security Tips and Best Practices

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

Industry

- Use the [NER Spring Crime Prevention Tune-Up](#) to make security a part of your operations season.
- Confirm that alarms and lighting are all operating properly.
- If you are getting false alarms, thieves may be testing your responsiveness; watch for vehicles “casing” your property and alert local Police.
- Test cameras in daylight and after dark- are you getting usable images of license plates, faces, and vehicles?
- Confirm that 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 and 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 or job site.
- 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.