

Snow Removal Equipment Theft Prevention

NER regularly receives reports of heavy equipment staged for snow removal being stolen, and this often increases with news of an impending major snowstorm.

The inherent vulnerability of machines left un-monitored in publicly accessible areas for extended periods is often too great a temptation. Each winter, everything from compact tractors to medium size articulated loaders have been taken from parking lots, private roadways and commuter transit locations (even municipal machines) where they were left to provide snow clean up.

Additionally, thieves take advantage of the fact that machines being loaded or operated at late hours and on weekends during storms are not suspicious to the general public or Law Enforcement, who have more urgent concerns.

Throughout the winter season, NER strongly encourages Equipment Owners and Law Enforcement to be aware of this continual problem.



Law Enforcement

Machines left in the open will be targeted - a few steps could prevent theft in your area and increase the likelihood a theft in progress will be discovered:

- Talk to Patrol and Dispatch personnel to be sure they are aware of the heightened equipment theft threat and vulnerability of staged machines.
- Be sure Patrol and Dispatch understand that they may contact NICB (800-447-6282) for access to NER's machine ownership registration data.
- Register for free NER database access. Click "LOGIN" then "Register" at www.ner.net.
- NCIC will not hit on an unreported theft. Call NICB to identify equipment owners through NER's registration, and to confirm a machine's location and authorized operators.
- NER's registration includes machine owner and fleet emergency contact information, including rental fleets.

Industry

Equipment owners, dealers and rental operators must be conscious of security on any machines sent to publicly accessible areas in anticipation of snow and ice management, and take steps to reduce the vulnerability of the machines and attachments:

- Do not leave machines in the open- work with property managers to determine an area on the site where machines can be secured or parked where video surveillance can monitor them.
- Disable machines that must be left in the open- remove relays, battery cables, etc to make operating a machine more difficult for a thief.
- Use a lock-out device, such as those from The Equipment Lock Company.
- Use a GPS monitoring system, such as NER's own IRONwatch devices.

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- Put signs on machines warning that they are under video surveillance and monitored by GPS systems.
- Reach out to the local businesses- be sure property managers and businesses at the location know how to reach you if they see something odd occurring with your machines
- Contact local Police- let the patrol officers in the area know you have machines that must be left in the open and be sure the duty officers or watch commanders have your emergency contact information.
- Protect attachments - park machines with plows and snow blowers against a curb, wall or bollard to make removal more difficult. Tilt the plows forward to the ground if it does not damage the contact edge. Park machines blade to blade.
- Monitor Equipment- check up on machines regularly to be sure they are accounted for. Watch for vandalism as it could be a warning that your machines are being targeted.
- Be prepared- be sure your NER registration is up to date and all machines are recorded accurately. Update your emergency contact information if numbers or personnel have changed. Have current photos of machines, especially if you are using plows or snow blowers in place of buckets.
- It's already snowing? It's not too late - check up on machines regularly, change where you stage them and leave them low on fuel if possible.
- Report Thefts Immediately - Make a police report before driving around the neighborhood looking for a missing machine. Report thefts to NER as soon as practical - call 866-663-7872 or see www.ner.net/report-a-theft.html

If you observe equipment that seems out of place or suspicious, contact NER for assistance **866-663-7872**.

Did you suffer a theft in a past season? Be sure it is recorded on the NER systems.

Call: 866-663-7872 or email: info@ner.net

To learn more about NER, please contact:

 info@ner.net

 **1-866-663-7872**

 www.ner.net

