



National Equipment Register

Building Relationships between the Equipment Industry and Law Enforcement

The victims of equipment theft often report that Law Enforcement does not appear “engaged” in the problem of equipment related crimes. Their level of engagement, though, must be taken in context: compared with the volume of other crimes, equipment theft and fraud are infrequent, and difficult to investigate. This means that an officer may have little experience with the crime, little background with both equipment and the equipment industry, and have few resources to work with to solve or prevent the crime.

Proactive equipment owners will address this issue with local police before a crime occurs, so that these hurdles are already overcome if the owner suffers an equipment related crime. Take action to be sure your burglary is not the first time local police have considered equipment crimes.

Additionally, raising awareness of equipment crimes will help Law Enforcement recognize criminal activity involving equipment, which they otherwise might not consider suspicious. This helps to stop burglaries and thefts in progress, and increase arrests of offenders. To be effective, this needs to be done before crimes occur – again, don’t let your victimization be your local agency’s introduction to this problem.

Steps an equipment owner can take to engage Law Enforcement:

- Find out who cares - Within the local Law Enforcement community, there may be personnel that specialize in equipment, and have an interest in equipment related crimes. NER can help connect owners with these individuals. Contact NER for more information 866-663-7872.
- Find out who investigates – Contact your local department’s investigations unit, and see who would investigate a commercial burglary or equipment theft. Discuss with this investigator what you know of recent theft trends, and see what resources or information they can use to better understand the problem (see below). Be sure they know you will support their investigative efforts and pursue prosecutions.
- Crime Prevention – Most agencies have a crime prevention officer or unit. Meet with them to discuss the issue, and see what suggestions they have to better protect your business and equipment. From there, discuss who they suggest you engage with to raise awareness proactively within the department.
- Training – Most agencies have a training officer that may be a resource in directing information on equipment crimes to personnel that encounter equipment (patrol officers, dispatchers, parking enforcement). Discuss the equipment crime problem with this officer, highlighting the need to educate personnel on the inherent vulnerabilities of equipment and to recognize suspicious activity. See if there are resources you can provide to make this happen (see below).
- Offer Resources –
 - Once you make a connection with your local department, offer your facilities and equipment for agency personnel to “get acquainted” with equipment. Open your yard for hands on equipment identification and basic equipment operation and safety demonstrations.
 - If your association has events like dealer days or a rental open house, extend an invitation specifically to your local departments and welcome any personnel with an interest to attend.
 - NER has a wealth of information on equipment crime and equipment ID that may be useful to departments, including theft alerts, theft advisories, and ID manuals. Much of this is available at www.ner.net or call NER for assistance – 866-663-7872.
- Start at the top – If equipment crime is a significant issue in your area, contact your elected officials that can bring attention to the problem. Your Mayor or city council may be a good avenue to making equipment crime a priority, and remember that your Sheriff is an elected official. Be sure that you are approaching them positively; bringing criticism and complaints is not the way to win support. Bringing information, resources and a true desire to proactively address the problem in tandem with the local Police will.
- Reward effort – when an officer is responsive to you, whether responding to a crime or in discussing this problem, be sure to let his or her boss know. A simple complimentary letter to the Chief, Sheriff or commander is an easy and effective way to show that you appreciate their responsiveness and attention.

Remember that it is human nature to look out for your friends and associates. Police in your community that have a good relationship with you are that much more likely to be mindful of your property, and your concerns.