



Construction Site Crime Prevention

Construction sites are frequently victimized by vandalism or the theft of machinery, equipment, tools, and materials. Different job sites will require different protective measures. The following are general crime prevention recommendations designed to minimize or reduce crime at the construction job site.

Identify Assets and Property. All assets on a construction site should be identified, inventoried, and tracked as closely as practical.

- A company identification numbering system should be developed. Corporate equipment should have some type of logo/advertising prominently displayed.
- Construction equipment should be marked in at least two (2) obvious and one hidden location. Use a hardened steel punch or etching tool to mark the serial numbers on the equipment.
- Mark wood with bright paint when it is delivered.
- Employees should be strongly encouraged or even required to have their personal property engraved with an identification number.

Surveillance. Contact neighbors around the job site and solicit their support in maintaining a secure site.

- Advise neighbors of the site hours and who to contact for questions or concerns.
- Post hours of operation around the site.
- Post "No Trespassing" signs around the site.

Access Control. Ideally, the entire job site should be enclosed in sturdy fencing. If it is not practical to enclose the entire site, at a minimum the area around trailers and material storage should be enclosed.

- There should only be one or two accesses or gates.
- Chain link fencing allows for surveillance by security patrols, police, and neighbors. Special attention should be given to the fencing of areas used to store hazardous materials, poisons, solvents, explosives, flammables, etc.
- It is recommended that employees park their personal vehicles outside the fence or have a designated parking area within the fence.
- Strange or unrecognized vehicles on the site should be challenged.
- Gates should be closed and locked at night and on weekends.

Key Control. Keys should be issued to as few people as possible, such as supervisory personnel.

- A log of issued keys should be maintained, including the type of key issued, to whom, on what date, and for what purpose.
- Unissued keys should be secured.
- Keys should not be hidden on the job site and key control numbers should be removed from padlocks.
- To prevent unauthorized duplication, keys can be "plugged" with a rivet through the bow as a means of preventing alignment needed for machine duplication.

Not All Thefts are From the Outside

- Gang boxes and supply sheds should be locked at all times. To avoid losses, the company should maintain a good tool “check in and out” system.

Secure Tools and Equipment When Not in Use. Storage sheds or fenced areas should be provided on the job site for the secure storage of tools and equipment.

- When construction vehicles are not in use, remove ignition keys and the lock cabs. Machines can also be disabled with hidden ignition cutout switches.
- Oil and gas tank caps should be locked.
- Wheel locks or immobilizers can be installed on smaller vehicles, generators or compressors, and pickup trucks.
- GPS devices can be installed in heavy equipment.

Sign for Deliveries. Establish a standard procedure for checking material on and off the job site.

- One person should be assigned the responsibility of maintaining tight inventory control of all materials and tools delivered, and only sign for each delivery after carefully checking the invoice for shortages.
- Critical material should not be stored on the job site any longer than necessary. Whenever possible, the delivery of high value material or those in critical supply should be timed on an as needed basis for delivery.
- Materials and equipment should be spot checked frequently.
- Empty cartons should not be allowed to accumulate as they may be used to carry supplies or material off the job site.
- Trash removal should be supervised so tools and materials cannot be hidden in containers and then removed from the job site.

Lighting the Job Site. Lighting can be an effective deterrent to theft and vandalism on the site. Lighting systems triggered by a motion detector or a passive infrared sensor gives the impression an intrusion has been detected and may also warn neighbors of potential intruders.

Security Companies. It may be advisable to employ the services of a bonded and insured security company either to maintain guard staff on-site or to make periodic patrols of the construction job site. Although we do our best, police departments do not have the staff to make periodic patrols of the sites or may be tied up dealing with emergencies or other priorities.

Alarm Systems. Electronic alarm systems can be an effective means of providing security on the job site, particularly for office and storage trailers or for material storage areas. Before making alarm installations, be sure to check local alarm ordinances.