



2008 Equipment Theft Report

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OUR PURPOSE

AN ALLIANCE WITH A PURPOSE

Through a joint alliance, the National Equipment Register (NER) and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) continue to make life more difficult for equipment thieves. By combining services and areas of expertise, we're providing an efficient conduit for law enforcement and insurers to identify any type of heavy equipment at any time of day and to help contractors reduce the likelihood of unknowingly purchasing stolen equipment.

Our alliance ensures that NER will continue to provide, manage, and expand its database of insurer-supplied theft reports and information about manufacturers, owners, and damaged equipment. NICB will extend the reach and value of that information through its nationwide network of special agents, who are trained in heavy-equipment theft and available to respond to law enforcement calls for investigative assistance or identification requests.

Better ownership documentation, accurate equipment identification, proper reporting, and greater site security will continue to increase the ability of law enforcement to combat equipment theft. Awareness, education, and training are key components of an overall fraud-prevention plan that may lead to immediate economic benefits for contractors, owners, and insurers.

Through our joint efforts, we're reducing the cost of theft for equipment owners and insurers by increasing the likelihood of recovery and arrest. We're also limiting the ability to fence stolen equipment, thus making heavy equipment a riskier target for thieves.



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We're excited to introduce the most comprehensive report and analysis ever produced on construction and farm equipment theft in the United States. For the first time, our report draws on data from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database, as well as data and analysis from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the National Equipment Register (NER), and ISO ClaimSearch®.

The report is another benefit of the NER-NICB alliance we announced just over a year ago.

The focus of the alliance is to make NER's databases of equipment ownership and theft more widely available to law enforcement 24 hours a day through the NICB's extensive law enforcement network. The increase in machine recoveries since NER and the NICB teamed up is the best evidence of its success. As well as support for programs aimed at identifying heavy equipment, the alliance provides monthly and annual analyses of regional and national crime trends. This report is an example. Further evidence of our success is in the "By the Numbers" summary on page 20.

The alliance and this report demonstrate how equipment owners and insurers can combine their information and resources. Turning that information into intelligence is a critical aspect of 21st century law enforcement. Loss prevention specialists will also find the analysis a valuable tool in planning the allocation of security resources.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our member insurers and equipment owners and, particularly, the efforts of the officers on the front line against property crime.

Sincerely,

Vincent Cialdella
Senior Vice President
ISO

Joe Wehrle
President and CEO
National Insurance Crime Bureau

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

The National Equipment Register (NER) and National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) annual report on equipment theft in the United States is based primarily on data the NICB drew from the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) database of more than 13,000 thefts of construction and farm equipment in 2008 and information reported to ISO ClaimSearch®. We'll publish similar reports every year to help track trends using the growing volume of data available to NER and the NICB.

AIM

Our study provides equipment owners, insurance companies, and law enforcement with information to guide theft-prevention efforts and allocate investigative resources. The study puts the information into context through footnotes, analyses, and conclusions that relate to the protection, investigation, and recovery of heavy equipment.

As in the past, the 2008 report seeks to answer key questions: Who steals heavy equipment, and how do they do it? How much and what types of equipment do they steal? Where do they steal equipment from, and where does it go?

DATA SOURCES

The NICB has access to all the data in the NCIC vehicle theft file, and it maintains a mirror image of that file. The FBI; other federal, state, local, and foreign criminal justice agencies; and authorized courts submit data on stolen vehicles, stolen vehicle parts, and mobile off-road equipment and components. The NICB uses the data to assist insurance companies in recovering stolen vehicles and mobile off-road equipment.

Since 2001, NER has developed databases of heavy-equipment ownership and theft information. Owners and law enforcement agencies report thefts directly to NER's database through its website. Insurers report thefts through ISO ClaimSearch, the insurance industry's all-claims database. Through an alliance with the American Rental Association (ARA), NER can capture loss and ownership data from many of the world's largest rental fleets and hundreds of smaller fleets.

Although statistics can't reveal all underlying reasons for the high level of equipment theft, we can draw conclusions from trends and the daily contact that NER staff members have with theft victims, insurers, and law enforcement.

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

We've presented each set of data in graphs or tables to allow easy comparison and to highlight trends. Notes explain data sources and gathering techniques. Analyses discuss the relative importance of the factors that affect each set of results. We provide additional commentary where results suggest a particular action or response.

THEFT STATISTICS

Theft by State

Top Ten Equipment-Theft States (2005–2008)

Rank	2008	Average 2005–2007
1	Texas	Texas
2	Florida	California
3	North Carolina	Florida
4	California	North Carolina
5	Georgia	Georgia
6	Oklahoma	South Carolina
7	South Carolina	Tennessee
8	Tennessee	Oklahoma
9	Illinois	Ohio
10	Missouri	Missouri

The top five states account for 43% of all thefts.

The top ten states account for 61% of all thefts.

NOTES

1. Although equipment thefts occurred in every state, the top five states accounted for 43% of the total number of thefts in 2008. In 2007, the top five states accounted for 31%.
2. The highlighted column represents 13,511 equipment theft reports captured by NCIC during 2008.
3. The last column is based on combined theft reports submitted to NCIC from 2005, 2006, and 2007.

ANALYSIS

1. Theft levels closely correspond to the amount of equipment in a particular area. In other words, the states with the highest volume of construction and agriculture — and therefore the most machinery — have the largest number of thefts.
2. Organized theft rings are likely to develop in areas with a high concentration of equipment and a large number of potential buyers of used equipment, stolen or otherwise. Higher loss ratios for insurers in certain areas reflect that development.

COMMENT

Sometimes theft hot spots emerge when an organized group of thieves and fences is working in a particular area. NER's regional theft-trend alerts highlight such activity. Detecting and thwarting those groups often coincide with a noticeable drop in theft rates. Documented recoveries illustrate that correlation. Some examples are in the "Case Studies" section.

Theft by Type of Location

The graph below shows insured losses by the type of location of the theft:

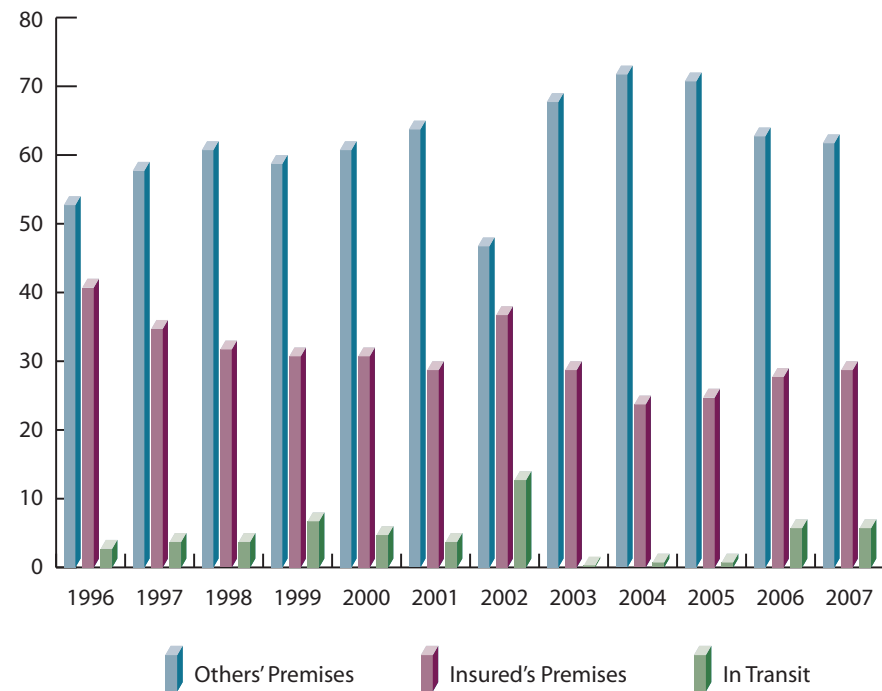


Figure 1. Theft by Type of Location (1996–2007)

NOTE

Source is ISO Inland Marine Circular, Contractors Equipment, All Classes.

ANALYSIS

Two factors affect results in Figure 1: the location where the equipment spends the most time and the level of security at each type of location. Most often, equipment is on a work site, labeled on the graph as “Others’ Premises.” Those work sites usually have lower levels of physical security than an “Insured’s Premises,” which is often a fenced-in compound.

COMMENT

It’s not enough to focus solely on the security of premises and work sites. Equipment users should secure machines, even if they can do so only temporarily. For example, a user could surround mobile equipment with hard-to-move objects when the equipment is not in use.

Types of Equipment Stolen

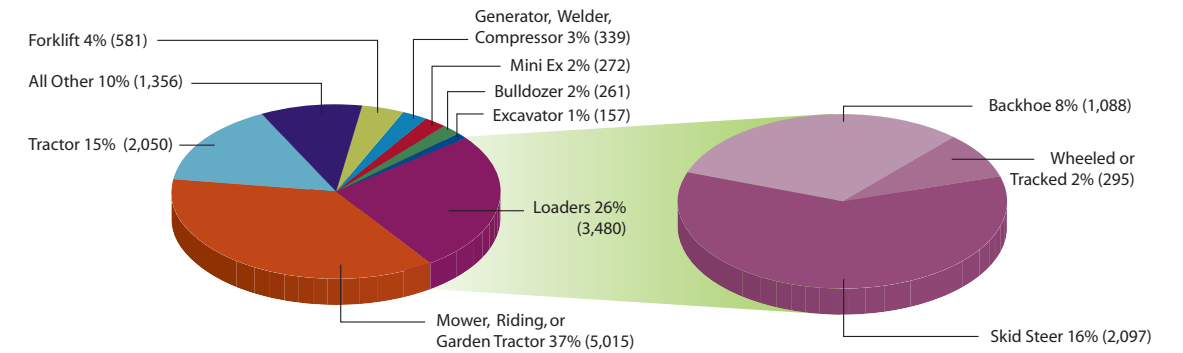


Figure 2A. Types of Equipment Stolen (2008)

Figure 2B. Types of Loaders Stolen (2008)

NOTES

1. The chart represents 13,511 theft reports submitted to NCIC in 2008.
2. The inclusion of landscaping equipment — mainly commercial riding mowers — reduces the percentage of all other categories from previous years.
3. The top five types of equipment account for 83.1% of all losses. In 2007, the top five represented 75% of all thefts.
4. “Tractor” is a broad category, including compact, utility, and agricultural tractors.
5. More than 50 types of equipment make up the “All Other” category. They include graders, scrapers, wood chippers, and rollers. Unidentified construction and farm equipment represents the majority (more than 1,000) of the “All Other” category.

ANALYSIS

1. Two key factors determine the type of equipment that thieves are most likely to steal: value and mobility. Value is the primary factor, except for items too large to move on a small trailer. For instance, large bulldozers are valuable but seldom stolen, as they are difficult to move.
2. Another factor to consider is the number of each type of equipment in circulation. For example, skid steer loaders account for more than 30 percent of new construction equipment sold in the United States in the last five years.
3. Dozers and wheel loaders are the most valuable types of equipment in the top ten, but backhoes and skid steers are easier to transport. Therefore, the latter group represents a greater percentage of thefts.
4. The types of high-value equipment reported stolen frequently are wheeled machines, such as wheel loaders.

COMMENT

Equipment owners should consider mobility of equipment, as well as value, when planning security efforts.

Frequency of Theft Compared with Other Risks

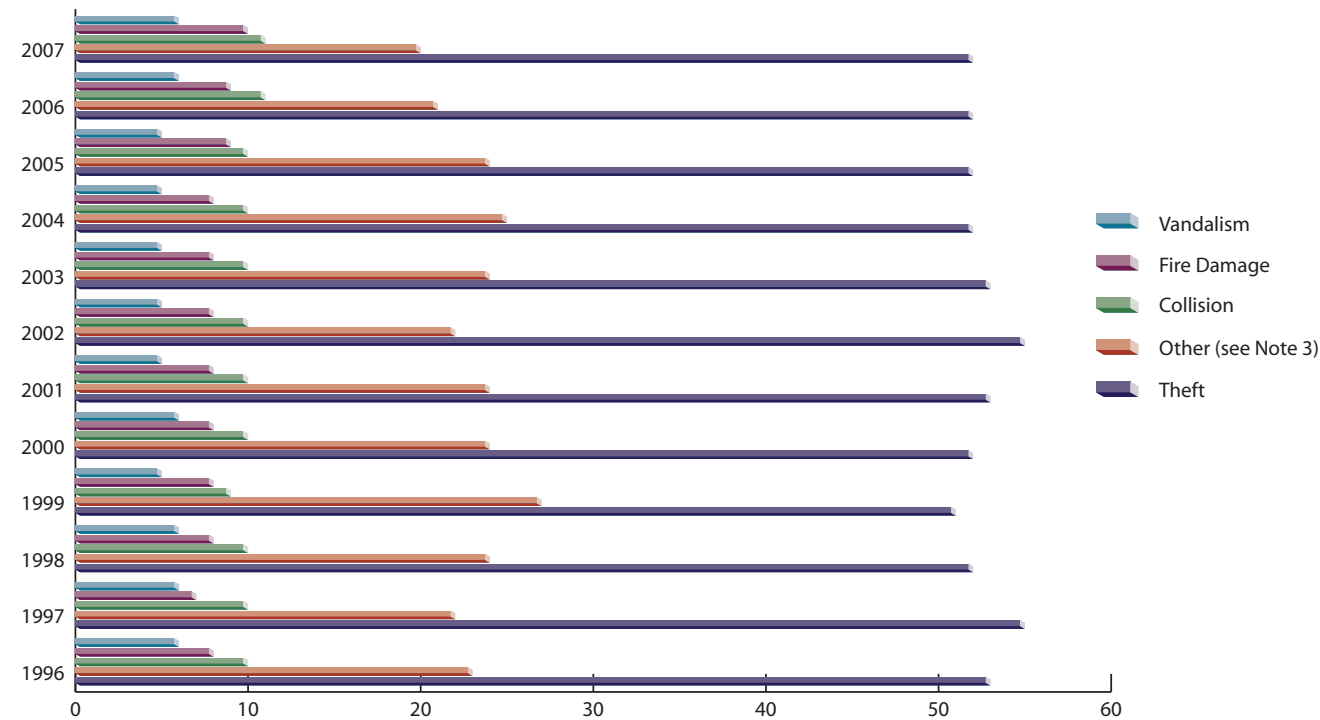


Figure 3. Frequency of Theft Compared with Other Risks (1996-2007)

NOTES

1. Source is ISO Inland Marine Circular, Contractors Equipment, All Classes.
2. We base the figures on frequency, not value. Theft still tops the list by value, although by a smaller margin.
3. "Other" includes claims involving windstorm, hail, water damage, flood, volcanic action, and earthquake.

COMMENT

Theft is the most frequent cause of loss, but it is also the type of loss that good prevention most dramatically affects. In other words, the level of risk varies greatly between an equipment owner that takes certain precautions and one that does not.

Equipment owners can reduce the likelihood of theft and improve the chances of recovery by taking simple preventive steps. Insurers and managers should implement those steps, especially when they are cost-effective and measurable.

Theft by Manufacturer

The manufacturers of equipment reported stolen most frequently to NCIC in 2008 were:

1. John Deere	6. Ford/New Holland
2. Caterpillar	7. International
3. Bobcat	8. Cub Cadet
4. Kubota	9. Ingersoll Rand
5. Case	10. Komatsu

NOTE

In 2008, 804 farm equipment thefts and 692 construction equipment thefts did not specify a manufacturer. If we counted all unidentified farm equipment as one manufacturer, it would place fifth on the above list. All unidentified construction equipment would place sixth.

ANALYSIS

1. All makes of off-road equipment have little or no standard equipment security, but the manufacturers on the above list make the most compact equipment (the types featured in Figure 2). The list does not necessarily follow the entire market share of all heavy equipment manufactured.
2. If two pieces of equipment are equally easy to steal, a thief is more likely to steal the machine of greater value. Age, condition, and brand determine a machine's perceived value.
3. New results will emerge as manufacturers register sales with NER, work closely with NICB investigators, and include additional security measures as standard features.

Age of Stolen Equipment

Equipment produced since 2000 accounted for 79 percent of thefts reported to NCIC in 2008. Sixty-one percent of thefts reported in 2008 were machines manufactured in the last five years. The table lists the top ten years of manufacture for machines stolen in 2008:

Rank	Year	Percentage
1	2008	17.9%
2	2007	13.9%
3	2006	11.9%
4	2005	10.4%
5	2004	7.1%
6	2000	5.4%
7	2003	5.2%
8	2002	3.9%
9	2001	3.1%
10	1999	2.2%

Equipment produced since 2000 accounted for 89% of thefts reported to NER in 2007.

NOTES

1. Each piece of equipment manufactured in 2008 faced potential theft for only part of the year — from the date sold to December 31.
2. Results may be skewed slightly because owners often misstate the date of manufacture. For example, a buyer may list a 2007 model purchased in 2008 as a 2008 model.

ANALYSIS

The newer a piece of equipment, the more likely it is that someone will steal it. If given the choice between two similar machines, a thief will choose the newer, more valuable machine, because they are equally easy to steal.

Those results are in stark contrast to larger trends in automobile theft, where older models account for more stolen cars. Newer cars carry more sophisticated antitheft technology. Heavy-equipment design, however, emphasizes productivity instead of security. The necessity for multiple operators leads to little or no antitheft technology. Many heavy-equipment manufacturers installed as few security features on 2008 models as they did on 1980 models.

Future reports will track that trend closely as manufacturers start to add more security technology.

Who Steals Equipment?

We have no detailed statistics on who steals equipment. However, information from criminal investigations indicates that thieves have good knowledge of equipment operation and security weaknesses.

In some cases, criminals learn about equipment or pay those in the industry for help and information. In other cases, the thieves are working in the industry and see an opportunity to supplement their income by stealing equipment.

The Cost of Equipment Theft

At present, there is no centralized, accurate, or exhaustive database that includes every loss. NER examines detailed theft reports from a specific area that accurately reports theft — such as a fleet, industry, or region — to make assumptions and develop trends. Then we apply those trends to the entire market share of that specific area to build a national figure.

Annual estimates of the cost of equipment theft vary from \$300 million to \$1 billion, with most estimates in the range of \$600 million.

NOTES

1. The estimates don't include the theft of tools or building materials or damage to equipment and premises caused during a theft.
2. The estimates don't include losses from business interruption. Those losses include the cost of rentals, project-delay penalties, and wasted workforce and management time.

ANALYSIS

Several factors contribute to the high level of equipment theft:

- the value of heavy equipment*
- poor equipment security and poor site security
- opportunities to sell stolen equipment in the used-equipment market
- low risk of detection and arrest
- lenient penalties for thieves if prosecuted and convicted

*The average estimated value of a stolen piece of equipment is \$30,000.

RECOVERY STATISTICS

Recovery Rates

Low recovery rates make it difficult to draw concrete conclusions from recovery statistics alone. By including information from investigations, such as those in the “Case Studies” section, we can gain an idea of how equipment is stolen, where it goes, and who steals it.

The NICB compiled 13,511 reports of stolen machines in 2008. Conversely, in 2008, the NICB reported 2,834 recoveries of machines listed in the NCIC active theft file. The file includes all active thefts, regardless of the year.



Only 21% of stolen equipment was recovered in 2008.

NOTES

1. The recovery rate does not reflect pieces of equipment that law enforcement has recovered but not marked as recovered.
2. The recovery rate does not reflect unreported thefts.

ANALYSIS

Several factors contribute to the low recovery rate of stolen equipment. They are as follows:

- delays in discovery and reporting of theft
- inaccurate or nonexistent owner records
- lack of prepurchase screening of used equipment
- limited law enforcement resources dedicated to equipment investigations
- complexities in equipment numbering systems
- limited, possibly inaccurate, equipment information in law enforcement systems

COMMENT

The area that needs the most improvement is also the area that promises immediate results: making accurate information available to law enforcement 24 hours a day through NER and the NICB.

As a minimum requirement, equipment owners should keep accurate lists of equipment with PIN/serial numbers and submit them to law enforcement, their insurers, and NER as soon they discover a theft.

When they purchase equipment, owners should register serial numbers in the NER database, so that the information is available to law enforcement 24 hours a day. In the event of a theft, law enforcement can identify the equipment, even during weekends or at night.

Recoveries by State

The following states were the most active in terms of recoveries in 2008.

Top Ten Equipment-Recovery States (2005–2008)

Rank	2008	Average 2005–2007
1	California	California
2	Texas	Texas
3	Florida	Florida
4	North Carolina	North Carolina
5	Georgia	Georgia
6	Oklahoma	Missouri
7	Missouri	Arizona
8	Ohio	Ohio
9	Arizona	South Carolina
10	Illinois	Illinois

The top five states account for 44% of recoveries.

The top ten states account for 61.2% of recoveries.

NOTES

1. In 2008, law enforcement recovered most machines in the same state where they were stolen. Of those recovered in another state, only one-third were more than one state away.
2. The bigger the state and the more demand for equipment within that state, the lower the chance that the equipment will leave the state.
3. The longer the time after a theft, the more likely it is that thieves will move equipment out of state and sell it to a purchaser who seems to have no knowledge of the theft.
4. Law enforcement is less likely to recover equipment when thieves move it far away, especially out of state. Therefore, more stolen equipment may be moving out of state.

ANALYSIS

1. Lack of screening in the used-equipment market bolsters thieves' confidence. They feel safe selling equipment in neighboring states or neighboring counties.
2. Recoveries made at ports and borders prove that thieves do export stolen equipment; however, selling stolen equipment within the United States is easy, so the cost of export is worthwhile only when thieves can raise prices abroad or when they steal equipment close to a border.

COMMENT

In the fight against equipment theft, it is important to act both locally (for example, by circulating theft reports) and nationally (for example, by submitting data to national databases).

A key component in the fight is to make it harder for thieves to sell stolen equipment. Buyers of used equipment should check machines at www.IRONcheck.com before buying.

Types of Equipment Recovered

The chart below shows the types of NER- and NICB-assisted recoveries in 2008.

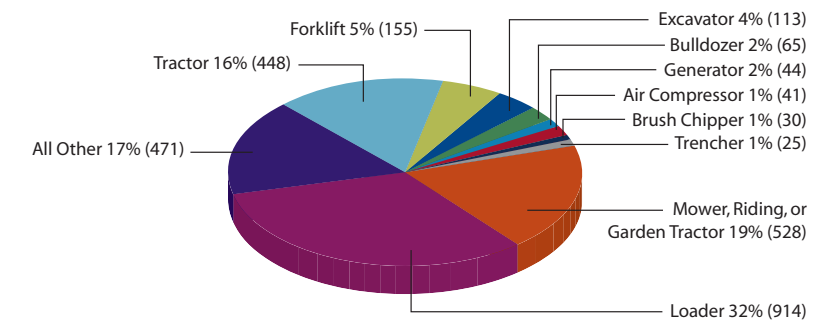


Figure 4. Types of Equipment Recovered (2008)

NOTES

1. The "Loader" category includes all subclasses: front-end, tracked, wheeled, skid steer, and backhoe.
2. The "Excavator" category includes both full-size and compact or mini-excavators.

ANALYSIS

The types of equipment recovered most are usually the types of equipment stolen most. The gap between theft and recovery narrows as NICB training encourages law enforcement to look more closely at the machines stolen more frequently.

Recovery by Manufacturer

With NER and NICB assistance, law enforcement most often recovered the following brands in 2008:

1. John Deere	6. New Holland
2. Caterpillar	7. Ingersoll Rand
3. Bobcat	8. Komatsu
4. Kubota	9. Massey Ferguson
5. Case	10. Takeuchi

ANALYSIS

The top five manufacturers account for 59 percent of all recoveries. The makes of recovered equipment closely mirror the makes of stolen equipment.

BY THE NUMBERS

Key Statistics

The following numbers give a snapshot of NER and NICB operations as of December 31, 2008:

15,639,322	Number of ownership records
\$10,180,845	Value of items recovered by law enforcement with the help of NER and the NICB
\$27,770	Average value of machines recovered by police with NER and NICB assistance
94,269	Theft reports in NER database
17,790	Law enforcement officers trained by the NICB in 2008
11,177	Fleets with equipment registered with NER
4,098	Rental stores or branches using NER's services
995	Attendees at FBI-LEEDA/NER/NICB Regional Equipment-Theft Summits in 2008
328	Recoveries made by law enforcement with the help of NER and the NICB in 2008
48	States in which the NICB conducted training in 2008
13	Number of insurance companies offering incentives to register equipment on NER's database (See Note 1.)
6	Number of top ten equipment rental companies that are NER clients (See Note 2.)

NOTES

1. Insurance companies are Ace, Allianz, Chubb, CNA, Great American, Hanover, The Hartford, Hiscox, Lexington, Ohio Mutual, One Beacon, RLI, and Travelers.
2. Reporting rental companies are Hertz Equipment Rental Company, Home Depot, RSC Equipment Rental, Sunbelt, Sunstate, and United Rentals.

FINAL NOTES

Summary

Although complete statistics do not exist, it is clear from available data that equipment theft is a serious problem. Estimates of the total value of stolen equipment range from \$300 million to \$1 billion annually. Those numbers do not include losses from business interruption, such as short-term rental costs, project-delay penalties, and wasted workforce and management time. By frequency of loss, theft is a greater problem than any other type of equipment risk.

Equipment-theft levels coincide with the amount of equipment in a particular area. The states with the highest volume of construction and agriculture report the largest number of thefts.

Mobility and value of equipment are the lead contributors to theft. Most thefts are from work sites with little or no security. Given two similar types of machines, a thief will steal the newer one because it is more valuable. In contrast to the automobile industry, there is little difference in equipment security between a new machine and one made several years ago.

Law enforcement recovers as little as 20 percent of stolen equipment. Recovery locations and types closely mirror theft locations and types.

Conclusion

Equipment owners and insurers should focus risk-management efforts on easily transportable high-value equipment.

Equipment security and work-site security are important. Work-site security should be a priority because equipment often sits in areas with little or no physical security.

Officers investigating equipment theft should focus on popular targets and look for red flags, such as location, type of transport, missing decals, altered paint, and, especially, missing identification plates.

The area that needs the most improvement is also the area that promises immediate results: supplying accurate information to law enforcement 24 hours a day through NER and the NICB.

2008 CASE STUDIES

INFORMER AIDS NICB

A Massachusetts prison inmate informed an NICB special agent that a landscaping company in Braintree was in possession of a stolen Caterpillar skid steer loader. After months of surveillance, the NICB and law enforcement discovered the piece on the property in question. The Massachusetts State Police Governor's Auto Theft Strike Force (MSP GATSF) recovered the unit.

The MSP GATSF filed criminal charges against the individual in possession of the equipment. The unit was insured by an NICB member company, and part of the plea bargain agreement had the defendant pay restitution to the NICB member company in the amount of \$20,638, plus the \$1,000 deductible.

THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES EVEN AFTER RECOVERY

A construction company reported the theft of a John Deere backhoe to the Columbus, Ohio, Police Department in March 2009. The report stated that an individual had contacted the National Equipment Register the previous day to check on the background of a similar machine. After the NER official verified the details of the theft, he contacted the NICB.

The NICB contacted the Columbus Police Department, which, in turn, contacted the caller. He admitted to possessing the stolen backhoe and agreed to turn it over. But the investigation did not end there.

Based on questioning the individual, witness testimony, and other evidence, Columbus Police Department detectives determined that the caller was an innocent victim who purchased the stolen backhoe unknowingly. Even though the police officers recovered the equipment, they have since identified an individual and proceeded with their investigation.

STOLEN DITCH WITCH IDENTIFIED AND RETURNED

The Cass County Missouri Sheriff's Office located a piece of heavy equipment but could not identify it as stolen, so they contacted the NICB. The police department had located a Ditch Witch JT2020 directional drill, a machine used in construction of pipelines and underground wire installations. After extensive research, the NICB agent confirmed the machine was stolen in 2006. Law enforcement notified the original owner, an NICB member company, and it retrieved its equipment.

STOLEN MACHINE ALSO HAD SWAPPED PIN

In May 2008, a special investigator with the Massachusetts State Police Governor's Auto Theft Strike Force (MSP GATSF) uncovered information that a stolen Caterpillar D6R bulldozer was located somewhere in Brockton. An insurer paid a claim on the \$120,000 machine, so the investigator contacted the NICB in an effort to recover it. Working together, the NICB and the MSP GATSF located the machine.

The individual in possession of the unit admitted that he had replaced its original decals with decals normally found on a D7H — a much larger bulldozer — so he could charge a higher hourly rate for the use of the machine.

HEAVY-EQUIPMENT PINS USED FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

After extensive investigation, the NICB identified the owner of a paving company in Ohio as the mastermind of an insurance scheme that victimized an NICB member company through \$499,380 in fraudulent claims. The culprit further exposed the insurance company to an additional potential loss of \$4 million.

Aided by the NICB's findings, local law enforcement obtained search warrants and recovered incriminating evidence. In April, the owner of the paving company pled guilty in U.S. District Court – Northern District of Ohio to two counts of wire fraud involving 23 other creditors who had sustained more than \$4.2 million in losses from mortgages and claims on nonexistent equipment.

The owner of the paving company carried out his scheme by obtaining financing for equipment he did not own or that did not exist. He then insured the equipment and filed fraudulent claims alleging the theft of equipment that either never existed or was insured by more than one carrier.

MULTIPLE AGENCIES JOIN IN MASSIVE RECOVERY

Senior Special Agent Pete Chrisley and Senior Special Agent Steve Derrick of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division led a multiagency investigation that culminated in one of the most successful equipment recovery operations in the United States to date. Their April 2008 recovery is valued at an estimated \$4 million.

The agents worked on the joint investigation with several other officers, including Detective Jennifer Flowers of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, Detectives Neil Rouse and James Lee of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Detective Dewitt Coleman of the Dillon County Sheriff's Office, and Agent Walt Woloszczuk of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

Here are just a few machines from the 31-piece recovery: four Caterpillar 320 excavators, two Caterpillar D-6 dozers, two Caterpillar 930-G loaders, two Caterpillar 730 off-road trucks, three Caterpillar 420-D backhoes, a Caterpillar motor grader, a Volvo L-70 loader, a John Deere 310-SG backhoe, and Kubota KT37 and Komatsu PC27MR mini-excavators.

A SIMPLE VISIT SAVES A \$40,000 LOADER

Detective Ward Pfefferle of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office in New Mexico helped recover a \$40,000 Caterpillar skid steer loader.

Detective Pfefferle observed the loader at the house of a person previously convicted of receiving stolen equipment and vehicles. The detective made it part of his routine to stop by any time he observed new equipment on that person's property. At first, the detective faced a challenge identifying the machine because he found no matching theft in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

Pfefferle contacted the NICB to help him locate and verify the PIN through the NER database. He identified the machine, and the sheriff's office returned it to the rightful owner, Wagner Rental.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL IDENTIFIES STOLEN SKID STEER

Detectives Clifton Crosbie, Alex Cao, and Hal Slayden of the Miami-Dade Police Department Auto Theft Task Force set out on a series of storage yard inspections in an outlying area of Miami-Dade County. One of the officers noticed a late-model Caterpillar skid steer tucked away in a far corner of one yard.

Upon further inspection, the officers noticed that the machine's PIN plate was missing. Det. Crosbie contacted NER and the NICB for assistance and, with their help, located a secondary PIN number. As a result of this investigation, the MDPD recovered a Caterpillar 216 skid steer and returned it to its legitimate owner.

A ROUTINE STOP LEADS TO A RECOVERY

In May 2008, Officer Shanda Braun of the Woodbury Police Department in Minnesota was patrolling a local residential area when she spotted a flatbed truck carrying a piece of equipment that looked out of place and unsafe.

The truck's trailer was carrying a Bobcat skid steer in pristine condition. Furthermore, the officer noted the skid steer was too heavy for the trailer and strapped with loose chains, making it unsafe for transportation. Lastly, Officer Braun sensed the driver was nervous during the routine stop.

Officer Braun worked with Deputy Dan Harjes of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Officer Spencer Scofield of the Woodbury PD, officers from the St. Paul Police Department, and employees from NER and the NICB. As a result of the collaboration, her routine traffic stop recovered a stolen machine.

