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According to the National Equipment Register, over \$300 million dollars worth of equipment is stolen from equipment dealers throughout North America each year. Unfortunately, most of this equipment is never recovered. While complete statistics do not exist, it appears that equipment theft is on the rise.

To help reduce the frequency of equipment theft, a comprehensive layered theft prevention program should be implemented. By using multiple “layers” of security, equipment dealers can better protect their inventory and property.

Inventory Controls—Maintain an inventory record of all equipment and other valuable assets in both open lots and buildings. This should be updated regularly as equipment is sold and new stock is received.

Personnel Controls—Perform reference and background checks on all potential employees prior to hiring them. Existing employees should also undergo these checks. Be sure to obtain appropriate authorization prior to performing any check.

Perimeter Barriers—Perimeter barriers, which help keep equipment in and potential thieves out, are some of the most effective physical security elements available when designed and installed correctly.

Potential perimeter barriers include:

- Fencing and gates
- Rail systems and bollards
- Signage
- Key control

Perimeter Intrusion Detection—Fences and other barriers are imperfect, so installing a detection system can provide notification when barriers have been breached. There are many options are available:

- Fence vibration
- Ported co-axial cable
- Infrared or microwave

Exterior Lighting—Lighting is a low-cost and effective deterrent to theft and vandalism.

Physical Security—Physical security measures reduce the likelihood that a piece of equipment could be



easily driven or pushed from the property. Options include special security equipment or changes in how equipment is stored:

- Chain or cable equipment together
- Wheel or track locks
- Kill switches, fuel shutoffs, hydraulic bypasses, etc.
- Hydraulic locks
- Removal of ignition components
- Equipment positioning
- Storing smaller equipment indoors

Identification—Equipment can be marked inconspicuously to make it easier to identify in case of theft.

Security Patrol Service—Security companies can be hired to patrol the site during nonworking hours.

Continued

Surveillance Cameras—Surveillance cameras can help identify thieves if a theft occurs.

Tracking Systems/GPS—Installing electronic GPS systems or other tracking devices on equipment can assist with the recovery of stolen equipment.

For Additional Information

National Equipment Registry: www.nerusa.com

Associated Equipment Dealers: www.cedmag.com

EMC Technical Information Sheets:
www.emcins.com

- Heavy Equipment Theft Prevention