Preventing Construction Site Theft

Provided by: **RS Risk Solutions Ltd**

Construction businesses are at a heightened risk of worksite theft, as expensive tools and machinery are attractive targets for criminals. Theft of construction materials can substantially disrupt a project, leading to delays and significant financial losses; therefore, it is essential for organisations to understand how to prevent these incidents. Although every worksite has its own unique challenges, basic strategies to prevent theft include the following:

* Create a written security policy and worksite security plan that assigns supervisory responsibilities, encourages awareness, and establishes best practices for securing tools, equipment and materials.
* Establish procedures for employees to report theft or suspicious activity and maintain detailed records of security incidents.
* Conduct thorough background checks on employees before hiring them and keep a list of people authorised to be on a worksite.
* Secure the worksite with a security fence, camera, lockable gates and security guards, and keep it well-lit.
* Train employees on how to store materials and equipment properly.
* Check the worksite at the beginning and end of each day to ensure nothing is missing.
* Maintain detailed inventories that include photos of valuable equipment and important information (eg serial numbers, dates of purchase).
* Mark and label all tools distinctively for easy identification.
* Implement a checkout system for tools and equipment to track their whereabouts.
* Remove unnecessary tools and materials from a worksite to reduce items thieves may target.

If a worksite theft does occur, it is critical to report it to the police. Although they may not always be able to recover stolen items, reporting losses allows them to establish a pattern that may help solve future cases or prevent them from occurring. The reports should include as much detail as possible about the incident (eg when it took place and what was stolen).

Additionally, businesses should promptly report thefts to their insurance provider so they can initiate the claims process. Contact us today for more information on robust insurance and tailored cover solutions.

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