

**TOOLBOX TALK
NO.53**

Speak out on theft



Construction sites are an easy target for thieves. The lure of swift and easy profits attracts them to high-value equipment. Arson and malicious damage are equally unpleasant and unwelcome site security problems.

Suggestions for safeguarding your materials and equipment on site:

1. Organise your storage area – a well organised storage area should include a locked enclosure for storing small high-value items. Keep your areas uncluttered.
2. Take ownership of your belongings. Mark your equipment
3. Keep written records of your equipment and maintain an accurate inventory
4. Consider painting your equipment in a different colour to aid in identification
5. Install anti-theft devices
6. A good inventory control with a check in and check out system for tools issued to employees could save losses.
7. Post signs that give warning or information about any marking of equipment with identification numbers, this will assist in deterring thieves and discourage theft and vandalism.
8. Monitor the receipt of your deliveries – implement a standard procedure for checking materials on and off the job. Organise the deliveries to site to arrive just before they are needed and ensure the amount of material and stock left on site is kept to a minimum.
9. Secure tools and equipment
10. Take a walk around your area to identify any security blind spots, where there may be easy to gain unauthorised access.

To reduce the risk of theft, make sure you remove any highly valuable items or at least from view. Lock your plant and secure your area if possible. Lock up your tools and equipment within a secure storage area.

Report theft and vandalism promptly, no matter how small the loss from theft or vandalism is. The information you supply to them promptly may save your site area from a repeat visit or discourage the vandals or thieves from striking other sites or areas.