



Putting the brakes on cargo theft

Tips to prevent theft and reduce costs

Cargo theft continues to create challenges for the transportation industry affecting every stage in the cargo chain. Truck stops, highway rest areas, unsecured lots, and distribution centers are frequent targets. Protecting cargo along the way is key to successful deliveries.

TIPS

to protect cargo

1. Use high security locks while cargo is staged

Use security equipment to secure trailers while they are being staged. King pin locks and landing gear locks are recommended along with high security locks on the cargo doors. And when tractors are married to trailers, air cuff locks are recommended.

2. Communicate consistently with dispatch

Drivers should maintain communication with dispatch during stops at high risk areas such as truck stops and rest areas. They should inform dispatch of the address of the stop, duration of the stop and how long they will be away from the truck/cargo. Drivers should always have their cell phone when away from the load.

3. Keep cargo moving – *cargo at rest is cargo at risk*

Define limits on how long a loaded trailer/container can remain unattended. Be aware of high theft areas in the country that could be part of a route. Limit the need for weekend transits to minimize loads being staged for extended time periods while waiting for weekday delivery.

4. Know where thefts are occurring

Focus on the “hot spots” and “hot times” – near busy ports and their surrounding areas with the highest rate of theft occurring in CA, TX, NJ, IL, FL and GA. Thefts spike around the holidays and are also more frequent on weekends (particularly Saturdays) and late in the afternoon when drivers stop for food and rest.

5. Park in secure locations

Park vehicles in well-lit spaces and be alert to danger signals such as signs that a vehicle may be following you or paying undue attention to you (e.g. facilities that appear to be under criminal surveillance). Consider employing a security company or utilizing a parking lot with a security guard to control incoming and exiting traffic.

6. Use covert tracking devices

For high value/high target loads, use covert tracking devices that will enable geo-fencing during stops and tracking in the event of a theft. Employ theft prevention devices to disable fuel, hydraulic, and/or electrical systems.

Let Travelers Inland Marine and our Special Investigations Group (SIG) help you find the right solutions to protect cargo.

Recovery efforts improve when a theft is reported quickly – call us 24/7 for immediate claim response at 800.238.6225.

Contact us today or visit us online at travelers.com/inland.