



Theft and Vandalism Prevention

TOOLBOX TALK

Essential guidance for **rental companies & rental operators**



Website
erarental.org



TOPICS

This Toolbox Talk is designed for **rental companies and rental operators** and is based on **the ERA Theft and Vandalism Prevention Guide**. It aims to raise awareness of the risks surrounding theft, vandalism and fraudulent hire, and to support the application of practical prevention, protection and reporting measures throughout the rental process.

This material can be used during internal briefings or on-site toolbox talks with operators, site teams and supervisors.



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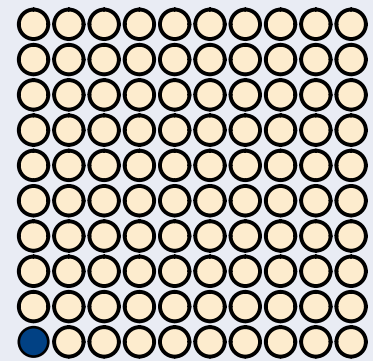


△ CRITICAL

Why It Matters

Theft and vandalism cost the construction industry **billions every year**, impacting project timelines, budgets, and worker safety. Stolen or damaged equipment creates immediate delays, triggers unexpected replacement costs, and introduces serious safety hazards to active job sites.

Everyone on site has a critical role in protecting hired equipment. Modern thieves are highly organised and technically capable, using sophisticated methods to target valuable assets. **This makes proactive security measures essential, not optional.**



€1B+

Annual Industry Loss

Direct costs from theft and vandalism

€500
Million per annum

30,000
Units of heavy equipment



Understanding the Risks

Targeted Equipment

Thieves specifically target equipment that can be stolen **quickly, quietly, or easily**.

Vandalism Patterns

Vandalism is frequently **opportunistic**, occurring when equipment is left unsecured or accessible. Common incidents include graffiti, intentional damage to controls or hydraulics, and arson.

Deterrence Strategy

Increasing a thief's risk profile is your best defense. Enhanced **visibility, extended time requirements, and tracking devices** significantly deter theft. When the effort outweighs the potential gain, criminals move to easier targets.

Risk Assessment

If you identify any risks on your site, take **immediate steps** to eliminate threats and strengthen protection.





SHIELD SITE SECURITY

Secure the Site



Secure Storage

Store rental equipment in locked compounds or secure containers when not in active use, either at depots or on customer sites.



Physical Restraints

Lock and link equipment using chains, cables or ground anchors, particularly smaller or mobile assets that can be removed quickly.



Perimeter Control

Use robust fencing, barriers and adequate lighting to deter unauthorised access and reduce opportunities for theft.



Access Management

Control access to equipment and hired site security products and clearly define responsibilities between the rental company and the site operator.



Fraudulent rental

→ REMOVE KEYS ALWAYS

Never leave keys in equipment when not in use. Effective key control reduces opportunistic theft and unauthorised operation.

→ USE TRACKING & TELEMATICS

Deploy GPS tracking, telematics and connected devices where available to support monitoring, deterrence and recovery, especially for high-value assets.

→ ENGAGE ALL SECURITY FEATURES

Activate all available security measures, including **mechanical restraints, electronic immobilisers and locking systems.**

→ FOLLOW SECURITY PROCEDURES

Ensure machine-specific security procedures provided by the rental company are **implemented and followed consistently.**



 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Protect equipment

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Immediately report unusual behaviour or security incidents in line with internal procedures and to local authorities where appropriate.

INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL

In the event of theft, vandalism or suspected fraudulent hire, act quickly and **notify the rental company, authorities and insurers without delay.**

RECOVERY WINDOW

The first 24-48 hours are crucial for equipment recovery. Rapid reporting increases chances of locating stolen assets before they're moved, dismantled, or sold.



Train, Educate, Prevent

Building a security-conscious culture requires **ongoing education and reinforcement**. Regular training ensures every team member understands their role in protecting valuable assets and knows how to implement **prevention measures** effectively.



Operator Training

Ensure all operators understand and can implement theft-prevention measures for every piece of equipment they use.

Procedure Review

Regularly review and update site security procedures to address emerging threats and incorporate lessons learned.

Continuous Improvement

Learn from incidents and near-misses to strengthen security protocols and prevent future occurrences.

Security Habits

Reinforce good practices: secure storage, proper key control, and consistent use of all security devices.



Stay Safe

Access Full Guidance Document



Website
erarental.org