

HOW TO

REPORT CARGO THEFT



What is Cargo Theft?

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Cargo Theft is defined as “The criminal taking of any cargo including, but not limited to, goods, chattels, money, or baggage that constitutes, in whole or in part, a commercial shipment of freight moving in commerce, from any pipeline system, railroad car, motor truck, or other vehicle, or from any tank or storage facility, station house, platform, or depot, or from any vessel or wharf, or from any aircraft, air terminal, airport, aircraft terminal or air navigation facility, or from any intermodal container, intermodal chassis, trailer, container freight station, warehouse, freight distribution facility, or freight consolidation facility. For purposes of this definition, cargo shall be deemed as moving in commerce at all points between the point of origin and the final destination, regardless of any temporary stop while awaiting transshipment or otherwise.”

1

Contact Local Law Enforcement and Insurance Provider: Contact local law enforcement and insurance provider to notify them of the situation, and continue to work with them throughout the process. Be aware that local law enforcement may ask for FBI intervention.

2

Record the Details: Document how the theft took place, including specifics about the time, location, and type of cargo involved.

3

Investigate the incident: Determine if any employee were to be involved, gather information via witnesses and those involved.

4

Report: TCA recommends carriers to report their theft to [CargoNet](#). It is also recommended to report the incident to the FBI's UCR program. For more details, refer to the FBI's Cargo Theft User Manual.

HOW TO Prevent Cargo Theft

1

Evaluate Employees: Conduct background checks for all employees, especially drivers, warehouse staff, and anyone with access to shipment information and logistics details. This is the first line of defense against employee theft and potential involvement in cargo crimes.

2

Educate Workforce: Provide security training for all employees, with a focus on educating truck drivers about hijack awareness and prevention. This protects both the employees and the cargo. Training drivers on hijack and theft prevention safeguards five critical assets: employees, trailers, tractors, cargo, and customers. Drivers who understand and follow basic security principles are less likely to have their trucks targeted for theft.

3

Carefully Select Partners: Choose transportation partners and customers carefully, ensuring they share your security philosophy. This includes strict pre-hire vetting of prospective employees and driver training. Remember, you are entrusting your goods and, to some extent, your reputation to these companies.

4

In-Transit Security: Incorporate in-transit security when planning shipment routes. Cargo theft can be pre-planned or opportunistic, sometimes involving inside informants or organized crime. Thieves often wait outside known shipping points and follow trucks as they depart. To mitigate risks, advise drivers not to stop within the first 200 miles (or four hours), use secured lots, and avoid hot spots. Do not assign expensive loads to drivers with less than 30 days on the job.

5

Countersurveillance: Include countersurveillance as part of your security guards' duties. Have them patrol away from perimeters and watch for people observing your operations. Trucks and cargo are the most vulnerable when at rest. Additional security measures for drivers include parking in well-lit, secure lots, minimizing unattended time for trailers and loads, and being aware of their surroundings.

6

Benefit from Technology: Install alarm-surveillance systems and respond to every alert when possible. Ensure the perimeter, entrances, building doors, and windows are well-lit. Utilize vehicle and cargo tracking, vehicle immobilizers, anti-theft heavy-duty locking devices, and advanced security seals, which are now more affordable. Combine these technologies with an escalation and response plan.

7

Conduct Audits: Perform periodic supply chain audits to determine gaps in shipment protection. Cargo criminals constantly forge new methods to defeat security devices and systems. By evaluating your system first, you can address these gaps proactively. Educate your employees on the appropriate actions if your cargo, trailer, or truck is stolen, as driver responses in these situations are crucial.

