

Jobsite Theft Prevention Checklist

Copper · Tools & gang boxes · Fuel · Generators & equipment

Work this list once before your next high-risk phase, then use it as a nightly walk. It is built from what our officers actually find on Sacramento-area jobsites: stripped rough-in copper, pried gang boxes, siphoned diesel, generators towed off the pad, and people coming back to the same weak spot until something changes.

1. COPPER, WIRE & PANEL GEAR

Highest-loss window on almost every build: rough electrical through drywall close-in.

- ☐ Store wire spools inside a lockable structure or conex the same day they are delivered — never staged in the open overnight.
- ☐ Order wire in phase-sized quantities so a full job's copper is never on site at once.
- ☐ Lock electrical rooms, riser closets and panel rooms separately from the building shell.
- ☐ Photograph and count spools, THHN reels and panel gear at end of day; recount at start of day.
- ☐ Paint or etch a site mark on spool ends and ground wire so a recycler drop is traceable.
- ☐ Keep dumpsters and stockpiles away from the fence line — they double as ladders and cover.
- ☐ Report every copper loss to law enforcement, even small ones; the report is what links repeat hits.

2. TOOLS, GANG BOXES & TRAILERS

Small, cash-convertible, and usually taken within fifty feet of where a vehicle can pull up unseen.

- ☐ Require trades to trailer tools out, or to lock gang boxes to a fixed anchor — not to each other.
- ☐ Swap open-shackle padlocks for shrouded or puck locks; check for swapped locks and re-looped seals daily.
- ☐ Hitch-lock and wheel-lock every tool trailer, and park it where headlights from the street reach it.
- ☐ Keep a written serial log of cordless kits, saws, lasers and total stations, with photos.
- ☐ Remove chargers, batteries and keys from trailers overnight — they are what gets resold fastest.
- ☐ Note where a truck could back up out of sight and close that approach with fence, K-rail or stockpile.

3. FUEL & FUEL TANKS

Five-minute crime; the real cost is the trade day lost waiting on fuel or a repair.

- ☐ Park equipment tank-side inward, wheels toward the fence, in a single tight cluster.
- ☐ Add locking fuel caps and anti-siphon screens to every machine and fuel trailer.
- ☐ Run machines down before the weekend rather than topping off Friday afternoon.
- ☐ Log fuel levels or hour meters at end of shift so a siphon shows up as a number, not a hunch.
- ☐ Check for pried caps, hose marks, fuel odor and stained ground on every walk of the yard.
- ☐ Keep the fuel trailer inside the fence line and out of view from the public street.

Jobsite Theft Prevention Checklist

Copper · Tools & gang boxes · Fuel · Generators & equipment

4. GENERATORS, MACHINERY & CONVERTERS

Anything with a motor or a catalytic converter is a target the moment the last trade pulls out.

- ☐ Chain generators and compressors to a fixed anchor or to a machine too heavy to tow.
- ☐ Immobilize equipment: remove keys, use hydraulic locks, drop buckets and blades to the ground.
- ☐ Cluster machines in a ring so no single unit can be driven or towed out on its own.
- ☐ Record make, model, serial and PIN for every unit; register serials with the manufacturer and your insurer.
- ☐ Install GPS or hour-meter telematics on generators, light towers and skid steers.
- ☐ Cage or shield catalytic converters on work trucks left overnight, or take the trucks home.

5. AFTER-HOURS ACCESS & TRESPASSING

Most losses come through a gate that was chained but not locked, or a fence panel pulled and re-leaned.

- ☐ Walk the full perimeter in daylight and photograph every soft point; recheck those exact points nightly.
- ☐ Lock gates with a keyed lock — a wrapped chain is not a lock — and vary which gate is the active one.
- ☐ Check the unfinished back edge, greenbelt frontage and neighboring lot access, not just the street gate.
- ☐ Clear and document occupied structures, stairwells and laydown-yard camps; call police, do not confront.
- ☐ Post no-trespassing and video-surveillance signage at every approach, in English and Spanish.
- ☐ Keep temporary lighting on the material staging areas and the trailer, not just the entrance.

6. DOCUMENTATION, COVERAGE & RESPONSE

What determines whether a loss becomes an insurance recovery or a write-off.

- ☐ Keep a trade log at the gate: who came on, who left, what they carried out.
- ☐ Require timestamped, geo-verified patrol or post reports emailed before the crew arrives.
- ☐ Match coverage to the phase — heaviest at delivery, rough MEP and equipment mobilization.
- ☐ Make patrol timing irregular; a fixed loop teaches a watcher exactly how long they have.
- ☐ Confirm your builder's risk policy's theft sublimit and any required security condition before a claim.
- ☐ Escalate a first hit immediately — an unaddressed first loss reliably becomes a larger, planned second one.

Want the nights covered instead of just the checklist?

Summit Force staffs the unwatched window with licensed officers, irregular documented rounds and a morning report you can hand an adjuster. Live dispatch 24/7 - summitforces@gmail.com.