Tips to help reduce cargo theft this holiday season

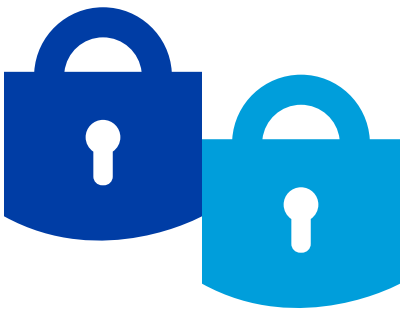
Cargo theft increases around all major holidays—Christmas and New Year's included.

Cargo theft groups exploit the added downtime that usually takes place during this time. Warehouses are often less staffed, and tractor trailers are more likely to be left in parking areas for longer stretches without their drivers.

Over the last few years, cargo theft has been on the upswing. The majority of thefts occur in high-traffic regions such as ports and near concentrations of truck stops.

There are two basic types of cargo theft:

- **Straight thefts:** These types are when criminals steal a loaded trailer by either unloading it onto other vehicles or driving away the entire unit.
- **Strategic thefts:** These types are the fastest-growing type of cargo theft—now comprising more than 10% of cargo crime nationwide. These events often involve identity theft or other computer-based means of misrepresentation. A good example is the use of fabricated documents to request pickup of a specific trailer for a brokered load.





Mitigate straight cargo theft over the road

Here are best practices you can put in place to help reduce straight cargo theft:

- Use vehicle and trailer tracking/telematics systems.
- Educate drivers about cargo theft and hijacking issues. Report any suspicious activity.
- Instruct your drivers to not discuss the contents of their loads with anyone.
- Make sure that both managers and vehicle operators have accurate license plate, VIN, and descriptive information for equipment.
- Secure all trailers (loaded and unloaded) with high-security seals combined with hardened padlocks.
- Use king pin locks for unattached trailers.
- Secure tractors. Don't leave unattended vehicles unlocked. Place extra keys in secure locations—not left in easily reached areas such as sun visors. Hidden "kill switches" should be used if possible.
- Avoid leaving loaded trailers sit unattended, especially in open parking lots and at truck stops, when employees aren't present.

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Warehouse and drop lot security tips

- Check all doors and gates at the end of the business day to make sure they're secure so thieves don't have the advantage of an inside job.
- Ensure all facility safety and security systems are in good working order within the buildings and around the perimeter of the yards. This should include lighting, back-up generators, alarm system(s), surveillance equipment, and perimeter fencing.
- Remove keys from all equipment and vehicles. Place them in a secure and locked location.
- Never treat any alarm signal as a false alarm. Encourage employees to document and report all suspicious activity that occurs in and around all logistics facilities.
- Ask local police agencies to make routine checks of facilities during holiday down time.

Mitigate strategic cargo theft

Here are best practices you can put in place to help reduce strategic cargo theft:

- Be extra diligent for an increase in fictitious pickups—from freight brokers to dispatchers—during the period leading up to the holidays.
- Implement strict vetting processes for end-of-day transactions. Have a supervisor take a second look prior to tendering a load or prior to changing the destination. They can easily identify a problematic situation.
- Educate drivers and dock supervisors on what type of issues to look for.

Implementing these best practices can help you reduce losses during the holidays—providing you additional peace of mind.

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