

Strategies for Improving Job Site Security

When construction sites close at night or over the weekends, they pose an attractive prospect for criminals.

In fact, \$46 million in construction equipment is stolen annually, according to a report by Aviva Canada. Specifically, Aviva's survey found that the average construction company experienced two thefts annually, with average losses of \$25,900 related to licensed vehicles and \$1,600 involving tools. Worse still, Aviva's calculated losses are for theft alone and don't include other possible perils, such as vandalism. To reduce the likelihood of thefts and other crimes, it's critical that construction site managers take steps to improve job site security. Moreover, robust security measures may also deter trespassers, critical for safety reasons.

Consider the following security best practices:

- **Secure the perimeter**—Erect a fence—at least 2 metres high—around the site and utilize signage to advise potential trespassers that entry is forbidden. Additionally, consider an access control system to ensure only authorized personnel can gain access to the site.
- **Lock up valuables**—Store valuables, equipment and machinery in a secure location while workers are off-site. Robust shipping containers could be leveraged for this purpose.
- **Keep the site well lit**—Many crimes occur in darkness. As such, keep the construction site well lit 24-7 to deter criminals and make it appear as though workers are still present.
- **Use a surveillance system**—Utilize video surveillance systems to actively monitor the site. Not only will this act as a deterrent, it may also facilitate the capture of valuable security footage should criminal activity occur.
- **Create a security plan**—Outline all safety protocols in a detailed security plan and disseminate this company-wide. For larger projects, consider enlisting a third-party security professional to audit the site and identify any vulnerabilities you may have missed.

Deciding which security measures are best will depend on the type and size of the project and the value of equipment on-site. Regardless, it's always better to be safe than sorry, so construction site managers should act with caution when scrutinizing security strategies.

Contact us today for additional risk management guidance.

If you have questions specific to your business, or would like additional information, please reach out to your Henderson Advisor.

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MANAGE YOUR RISK**

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