



## **HEAVY EQUIPMENT IS A TEMPTING TARGET FOR THIEVES**

### **The Facts**

Heavy equipment theft is a growing problem throughout North America. As with vehicle theft, organized crime rings are the primary driving force behind heavy equipment theft. In many instances, these sophisticated criminals have equipment shopping lists. They know the types of equipment they want and where to find it, and frequently target construction sites rather than secured dealer lots.

Many of these organized criminal rings send stolen construction equipment to other countries. Stolen equipment is often transported to the nearest port or across the border prior to its being reported as stolen.

To help combat this problem, equipment manufacturers adopted a standard worldwide 17-digit product identification number (PIN) system beginning with their year 2000 models. With this format, international law enforcement computer systems can better check, verify, and track equipment reported stolen.

### **Theft Prevention Tips**

- Render equipment immobile or difficult to move after hours or on weekends by:
  - not leaving equipment, such as backhoes, on trailers when unattended;
  - clustering equipment in a "wagon circle" with more easily transported equipment, such as compressors, in the middle, surrounded by larger pieces of equipment.
- Maintain a log listing all equipment serial or product identification numbers in a central location. If possible, include photos and other identifying information.
- Use hydro locks to fix articulated equipment in a curved position, preventing them from traveling in a straight line.
- Use sleeve locks to fix backhoe pads in an extended position, keeping wheels off the ground.
- Install a system that disables the equipment's electrical or ignition system if universal keys are used.
- Install a tracking transmitter system in each unit designed for construction and heavy-duty equipment.

**IF YOU SUSPECT INSURANCE FRAUD OR THEFT, SPEAK UP! CALL THE NICB  
TOLL-FREE HOTLINE...1.800.TEL.NICB (1.800.835.6422). YOUR CALL IS FREE.  
YOUR CALL CAN BE ANONYMOUS. YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REWARD.**