

Safely



SPEAKING

BY RUDY PENNER

Lawn & garden equipment securement

WITH the arrival of spring and summer comes the enjoyment of working on lawns or in gardens. To help with yard work, equipment dealers offer a wide arrangement of lawn and garden equipment for the consumer to choose from, resulting in dealers carrying a large inventory.

Having a large inventory raises issues for the safe storage of this equipment. Because the majority of lawn and garden equipment is easily moved, theft becomes a concern. There are a number of ways to secure this equipment to make it less vulnerable to theft.

The best choice for securing lawn and garden equipment is a locked, alarmed building. However, this is not always practical as building space is at a premium and may not be available.

Another good option is to store the equipment in a fenced compound that is protected by an alarm system. Alarmed fence compounds also can be monitored with motion sensors linked to live video monitors. The intruder triggers the alarm, sending a signal to a monitoring company that can then view the lot and, if needed, contact the police. For additional security, you can also add fence-mounted sensors that detect when someone or something cuts or climbs a fence.

Securing the equipment with a grade 70 transport chain or aircraft cable and a good case-hardened padlock will also help prevent theft. Linking the chains or cables through the frame portion of the equipment rather than the steering wheel prevents a thief from cutting through the steering wheel and gaining access to the equipment. Running a closed loop alarm cable through the equipment provides additional security. If the cable is cut or disconnected, it signals an alarm to the monitoring company.

Dealer challenges

The issue facing many dealers is that many are often located in isolated areas and police response time may not be as quick as if they were located inside a city. Therefore, it is even more important for a dealership to have several layers of protection for its equipment. The more layers of protection the greater the deterrent for thieves.

Whether equipment is stored inside an alarmed building or inside an alarmed fenced compound, it is a good idea to have line security for your alarm system. Line security is an alarm feature that signals an alarm company when someone attempts to bypass the alarm by cutting the telephone lines. The more common forms of line security are cellular backup or radio frequency. Talk to your alarm company to determine the best method of line security for your specific needs.

Other ways to add additional security include:

- hiring a private guard service (on your own or in conjunction with other businesses in the area) to provide random checks on your business,
- using a video surveillance system to monitor comings and goings, and
- strategically placing physical barriers to prevent the removal of the equipment.

At Federated Insurance, we believe loss prevention is a critical component of your risk management program. For more information, contact our Loss Prevention Department at 1-800/665-1934, or visit our Web site at www.federated.ca.

The information provided is intended to be general in nature and may not apply in your province. The advice of independent legal or other business advisors should be obtained in developing forms and procedures for your business. The recommendations are designed to reduce the risk of loss, but should not be construed as eliminating any risk or loss.

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RUDY PENNER, CRM, is a loss prevention technical specialist for Federated Insurance.

dreams

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