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Storage Lot Security

Storage lots are used for a variety of items including vehicles, stock and equipment.

There are many ways of protecting the lot, but the best method will depend on the level of protection required and the traffic being restricted. Some retail businesses want to restrict vehicle traffic, but encourage pedestrian traffic. They want their potential customers to be able to view items held for sale during non-business hours.

A properly designed storage lot should enhance security and discourage thieves by making theft difficult. The level of protection is highly dependent on the attractiveness of the items on the lot. Target theft items cannot be stored on the lot without some kind of protection.

The following are several solutions that can be used however each situation is unique and may require a combination of techniques:

Physical Barriers and Landscaping

Physical barriers usually are utilized to prevent vehicle access or removal of equipment from the open lot. Barriers can include concrete barriers and blocks. Landscaping can be used effectively as well – perimeter ditches or large rocks strategically placed will prevent vehicle traffic. Temporary barriers can be moved around the open lot as necessary and are generally used to block entrances or create a barrier along the side of an open lot.

Fencing

Fencing is typically used to prevent pedestrian and vehicle traffic from entering the lot. The methods used depend on the type of traffic being restricted. If the goal is to restrict vehicles but not pedestrians, a solid fence is not necessary. Steel posts joined with cable or chain may provide adequate protection.

Chain link is the most common fencing material, but other options include iron, masonry, and wood. Chain link fences can be cut; therefore additional security may be required. Installing additional horizontal steel pipes between the posts can reduce the possibility of items being removed through a cut fence. To prevent intruders from climbing over the fence, barb or razor wire should be installed on top of the fence.

Fence gates should be constructed to the same or higher standards as the fence and be equipped with good quality professional series padlocks. If chain is used to lock the gate, it should be a minimum 3/8-inch grade 70 transport chain.

Lighting

Good lighting will discourage intruders. Installing perimeter lighting reduces dark areas and places for intruders to hide. Lights should operate from dusk to dawn.

Open Lots

Items on an unfenced lot can be secured with grade 70 transport chain or high quality steel cable and high quality professional series padlocks. The items can be secured together or to a solid object on the lot. This may not be adequate for high target theft items such as All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's).



Knowing your business matters.

Burglar Alarms

Additional security can be utilized by alarming the storage lot. Burglar alarms are designed to detect intruders and to be effective should sound a local alarm as well as notify a monitoring company.

Common methods for alarming a fenced compound are:

1. Fence monitoring: alarm wires are strung through the fence – cutting the wires will trigger the alarm.
2. Photoelectric beam transmitters and receivers are placed inside the perimeter of the fence. The alarm is triggered when the beam is broken.

If the lot is not fenced, individual items can be protected by the alarm using a closed loop system. An alarm cable is strung through each item to protect – removing the cable will trigger the alarm. Some high target theft items require a fenced compound and closed loop alarm system.

Closed Circuit Television Cameras

Security cameras are an important component to crime prevention and should be used in combination with other deterrent measures. Large visible signs warning that the area is under surveillance should be installed.

Guard Dogs

Guard dogs can be a useful deterrent to crime but require special precautions to ensure the public's safety. Very serious and traumatic injuries have occurred to the general public, especially to children. Most security concerns can be addressed by methods other than a guard dog.

We do not recommend guard dogs, however, should you choose to have one, an independent security service should be used.

The following precautions are necessary for all guard dogs:

1. The fence should be well maintained and of good quality with no openings.
2. The fence should have no gaps between it and the ground. It must be of adequate height to prevent the dog from jumping over the fence.

3. The fence should be secured to the concrete or asphalt surface.
4. If the fence is placed above a dirt or sand surface, the fence should extend a minimum 2 feet below ground level to prevent digging under the fence.
5. Dogs should be kept in a secure enclosure away from the public during business hours.
6. Warning signs should be placed on all sides of the compound indicating the presence of a guard dog.
7. If the dog is kept inside the building, warning signs should be placed at all entrances.

Partners In Prevention

At Federated Insurance, we believe Loss Prevention is a critical component of your Risk Management Program. Your Risk Services Coordinator together with our Loss Prevention Team is available to assist you in determining the security measures most appropriate for securing your business. Working together to reduce your loss exposures protects your bottom line!

For more information, contact your Risk Services Coordinator, our Loss Prevention Department at 1-800-665-1934, or visit our website at www.federated.ca

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